

Trans Day of Visibility



Today (**March 31**) is International Trans Day of Visibility (TDOV), a day for celebrating and raising awareness of trans people. This year, MCC Toronto marked TDOV with an event called Trans Nite in the Spotlight – a community meal and celebration of trans joy. Trans Nite in the Spotlight welcomed well over 100 people, including plenty of newcomers. The night was successful thanks to trans people – from the chef in the kitchen to the volunteers who helped with setup to the performers who shared their amazing talents.

The night's entertainment included singer/songwriter Sara Campbell and stand-up comic Al Val, women who draw from their trans experiences to create beautiful music and laughter. Two non-binary performers – drag king DeVery Bes-s and singer/songwriter CJ McQueen – were also part of the evening's lineup. Toronto PFLAG Vice President Stephanie Wooley was also on hand to discuss the support available to trans folks and their families.



The event's theme was #transjoy, and each of the night's performers was asked to share a few words about what brings them joy. Folks talked about the joy of seeing their true selves in the mirror, getting gendered correctly, finding safe and accepting spaces, putting on colourful, gender-affirming clothing and a lot more.

In a world where influential people have called for the eradication of trans people – a world with too many narratives of trans suffering – claiming trans joy is crucially important. It's beautiful, powerful, and a cause for celebration.

Rev. Junia Joplin,
Associate Pastor, Programs & Congregational Care

Kleenex in the Pews (& Treasures in the Thrift Shop!)

David Manion, 68, chuckles during our phone interview, thinking back at the first day he came to MCC Toronto: "I remember the first time being so thankful that they had Kleenex in the pews, and I know other people felt the same way, for those overwhelming moments." David doesn't remember exactly when he first joined, but that tiny gesture of kindness had a lasting impression on him to bring him back every second or third Sunday. But on top of that, the church helped David through some difficult personal and professional times and centred him when he felt very lost.

Later, when he befriended Peter Kaellgren and John Alexander, David was introduced to MCC Toronto's Thrift Shop. As his friendship with Peter and John deepened, so did his involvement with the Thrift Shop until he ultimately took it over in 2016. He spent many an hour, on Saturdays and Sundays, sorting through antique dishes and collectibles. Besides the Thrift Shop, David was also in charge of our very popular advent sale that many congregants looked forward to every Christmas.



David says the Thrift Shop was more than just selling used goods; it became about community and friendships. “Many regulars kept returning every week, and many friendships blossomed there. It was a very friendly place and a social endeavour every weekend.”

However, just like all else, the pandemic also changed everything for the Thrift Shop. “We only opened once after the pandemic and before the renovations in the Social Hall began. So many people were excited and asked for the Thrift Shop to return,” David recalls, “But then there was construction in the Social Hall, and we couldn’t reopen.”

After the renovations ended, the church had to decide to close the beloved Thrift Shop, mainly because of needing the space. The news is bittersweet for David. He recognizes the church’s need for space but will miss all the memories and beautiful friendships made in the Thrift Shop.

We can’t possibly thank David, Peter, John and all the other volunteers (past and present) who have contributed so much to our Thrift Shop operation over the years. All of you have been instrumental in creating a cheery and friendly space for everyone after the service.



Join us this **Saturday, April 1** or **Sunday, April 2**, from **10 AM to 4 PM** for one final Blow-Out Sale! It’s the sale to end all sales! And who knows, you may even take some great treasures home!

MCC Toronto's Easter Services

MCC Toronto invites you, your family and friends, to join us in-person or online for our upcoming Good Friday (**April 7**) and Easter Sunday (**April 9**) services. Full details can be found [here](#).

Make an Easter Memorial Donation



During this special time, MCC Toronto invites you to consider the opportunity of making a gift in memory. All donors (and their remembered loved ones) will be recognized in next week’s

Query and as part of our Easter Sunday Worship Service. Click on "Make an Easter Offering" on the link below.

MAKE AN EASTER MEMORIAL GIFT

Musical Guest



Bruce Dow is our Offertory Performer on Homecoming Sunday!

Bruce Dow is an award-winning actor/singer/director and theatre educator committed to safety in the classroom and the workspace.

You may know Bruce from his/their 5 featured roles on Broadway - most recently as "Paul Burrell" in the now infamous, multi-Razzie Award Winning *Diana, a new musical* now available on Netflix; his/their 12 seasons in leading roles in Shakespeare and Musicals at the Stratford Festival; and his/their 2 x Dora Award winning work at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre. You can find Bruce's solo recordings on Apple Music and Spotify. www.brucedow.com

April 2 | 11 AM | MCC Toronto's YouTube Channel

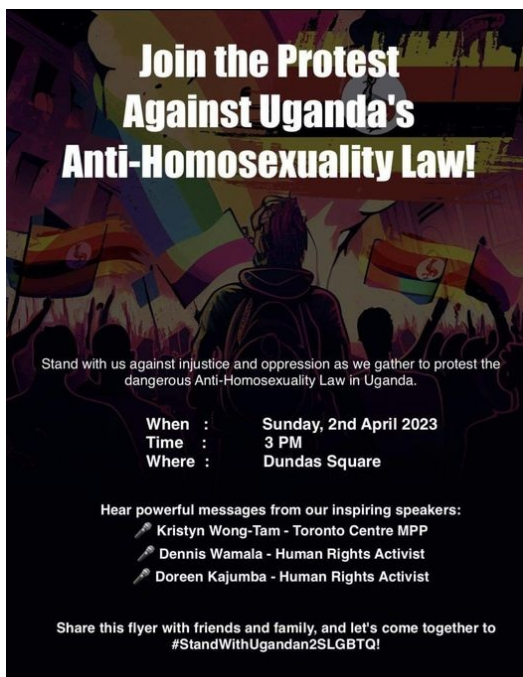
CLICK HERE TO JOIN US FOR THIS SERVICE ONLINE

Knitting for Seniors | Apr 2 | 1 PM



This is your last chance to join the last session of our Senior Programming's knitting for beginners, this Sunday, **Apr 2** at **1 PM** at MCC Toronto's **Lavender Room**. Please email seniors@mcctoronto.com for more details and to register. All are welcome, no matter your gender or knitting skill level.

Rally Against Uganda's Anti-LGBTQ+ Law | Apr 2 | 3 PM



Join Rev. Deana Dudley as she speaks at an important Rally Against the Ugandan government's anti-LGBTQ+ Law.

Community members and allies are invited to join against injustice and oppression as we gather to protest the dangerous anti-Homosexuality Law in Uganda.

When: **Sunday, April 2**

Time: **3 PM**

Where: **Dundas Square**

A Story and a Book

It's been almost two weeks since we lost our wonderful friend and colleague, Mark Asselin. For many of us at MCC Toronto, his absence has been very difficult to believe. Still, we're grateful that we can feel him every time we walk through our beautiful Social Hall, which he so wonderfully designed and had his last party in after the Celebration of his Life.

CBC Sudbury did a beautiful story on Mark and his journey. At the end of the article, you can hear his beautiful voice in a radio interview, talking about how he designed his story's ending just like the Social Hall. To read the article, click on Mark's picture below:



We also want to let you know that you can now purchase Mark's book *This Wall* at our Information Desk during Sunday Worship Services.

Mark generously donated all the proceeds from his book to MCC Toronto, making sure we are cared for even after he is gone.



We have many angels among us, and this month the angels we're honouring are those who have been helping out with the relaunch of the lunch program for the Triangle Program, Canada's first and longest-running LGBTQ+ high school!

We want to thank **Nibo Sara Allawardi, Orayo Bakita, Allan Dameon, Jegede Elizabeth, John Gorosde, Sandra Hakizimana, Sarah Kuhutha, Aisha Lubeera, Ruth Maina, Asia Nantongo, and Nkem Odinma** for their dedication.



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**.

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, particularly 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 ourselves or others is always important. 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](#)

This Week at a Glance April 1 - 8

Saturday:

10 AM - 4 PM - Thrift Shop Blow-Out Sale

Sunday:

10 AM - 4 PM - Thrift Shop Blow-Out Sale

11 AM - Online and In-Person Sunday Service

1 PM - Knitting for Seniors

Tuesday:

7 PM - [Bible Study](#)

Thursday:

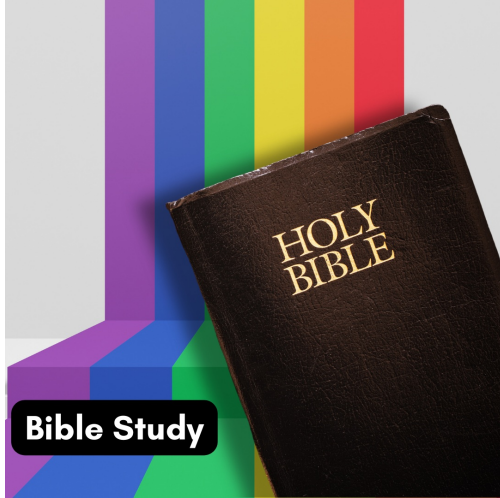
10:30 AM - Ever Wonder Group Discussion

(Email: everwonder@mcctoronto.com)

3 PM - [Digital Fellowship Hall](#)

Friday:

7 PM - Good Friday Service



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 

