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[The] church has got to be immersed in gay liberation, and human liberation, as much as any other group, perhaps even more so.

—Rev. Bob Wolfe

Signs of Appreciation for our ELEVATION Campaign Donors



This week, MCC Toronto was delighted to complete the installation of new signs and plaques across our main floor celebrating the remarkable generosity of the **ELEVATION – MCC Toronto Campaign** donors who helped make the transformation of our public spaces possible. Thanks to a remarkable lead gift from Paul Austin, to leadership donations from Michael McCain, Margaret McCain, Andrew & Valerie Pringle, to major gifts from other

congregants and community leaders, we have been able to create spaces that are warm, welcoming and light-filled, that are now able to better accommodate current and future human rights programming, and public events like our Community Meals program. On behalf of our Board, Acting Senior Pastor Rev. Deana Dudley, and all of us at MCC Toronto, thank you! We are forever grateful to Campaign donors for their faith and belief in the importance of MCC Toronto's work and mission.

[READ MORE](#)

In the weeks ahead, we will provide an update on our plans for improvements to our beloved Sanctuary which have been made possible by donors to our Congregational Campaign. Stay tuned!



BACK IN 1973 POP MUSIC

As MCC Toronto celebrates its 50th Anniversary in 2023, we are launching a new weekly column looking back at the year 1973 to identify the news, happenings and trends that defined the year of MCC Toronto's founding. This week, we look at pop music.

Since 1958, Billboard magazine's Hot 100 has been the definitive weekly chart for the biggest pop hits in North America. In 1973, disco had not yet taken hold of the pop charts, Pink Floyd released *Dark Side of the Moon*, and Kiss and AC/DC played their first concerts. And on July 16, 1973 - the day that folks first met to worship together as what would become MCC Toronto - the number one song was *Bad Bad Leroy Brown* by Jim Croce. Sadly, that song has, as the saying goes, "aged like milk." I suspect it would not get any airtime today, as it seems incredibly problematic – racist, even – considering that the singer was a white artist singing about a black man in rather stereotypical and uncomplimentary ways. *Time in a Bottle*, Croce's posthumous number 1 from later that year, this ain't!

Billboard Hot 100 – July 16 1973

1. *Bad, Bad Leroy Brown* - Jim Croce
2. *Will It Go Round In Circles* - Billy Preston
3. *Yesterday Once More* - Carpenters
4. *Shambala* - Three Dog Night
5. *Kodachrome* - Paul Simon
6. *Give Me Love (Give Me Peace On Earth)* - George Harrison
7. *Smoke On The Water* - Deep Purple
8. *Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy* - Bette Midler
9. *Playground In My Mind* - Clint Holmes
10. *Natural High* - Bloodstone

As a pop music fan, I know most of these artists (other than Clint Holmes and Bloodstone). However, I am not sure anyone would select this week's entries from the Carpenters, Three Dog Night or Paul Simon as their best. By title alone, I don't think I even know them, though Rev. Deana assures me that *Kodachrome* is goofy fun!

On Billboard's Year-End chart, the number one song of 1973 was *Tie a Yellow Ribbon Round the Ole Oak Tree* by Tony Orlando & Dawn, a song I find singularly embarrassing and dated, but was evidently loved by many pop music listeners in 1973.

What do you think? Do you remember/know any of these songs? Which are your favourites?
Let [me](#) know.

John R. Farrell
Director of Development & Communications

Musical Guest



Just Prince is our Offertory Performer this Sunday!

Just Prince is a singer-songwriter based in Toronto. His music brings together colours of Eastern and Western music in a way that's unique with the intuition of humility and togetherness.

He has released 1 EP and 12 Singles which are in English, Hindi and Punjabi and is working on more music. He has also played venues like El Mocambo and Horseshoe Tavern and plays every other Saturday at Oud and Fuzz.

Check out his [Spotify](#) and [YouTube](#) channel

April 16 | 11 AM | MCC Toronto's YouTube Channel

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

Holy Humour Sunday | April 16

Come on out for this week's Sunday Worship Service for our sporadic, occasionally annual

"Holy Humour" Sunday!

Holy Humour Sunday is a modern adaptation of an ancient custom in the early church of observing the Sunday after Easter as a time of joy and laughter after the solemnity of Lent.

Watch Rev. Deana's recorded opening act for Rev. Junia below!



Volunteer with MCC Toronto's Congregational Care Ministry

This spring, MCC Toronto is looking to grow our team of congregational care ministers. We're currently seeking 2 or 3 volunteers to serve as lay ministers in the congregational care program. Lay minister responsibilities include providing basic pastoral care to folks who submit care requests at mcctoronto.com/care as well as occasionally leading the prayers of the people during worship. If you think you may be suited for the work of congregational care, or would like to learn more about the role, please contact Rev. Junia Joplin at jjoplin@mcctoronto.com. An information session will be hosted on **Sunday, May 7** after Service in the Rainbow Room.

Next Bible Study | April 25

There's **no Bible Study** this week on **April 18!** It will resume next week on April 25.

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.

To sign up for volunteer 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 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](#)

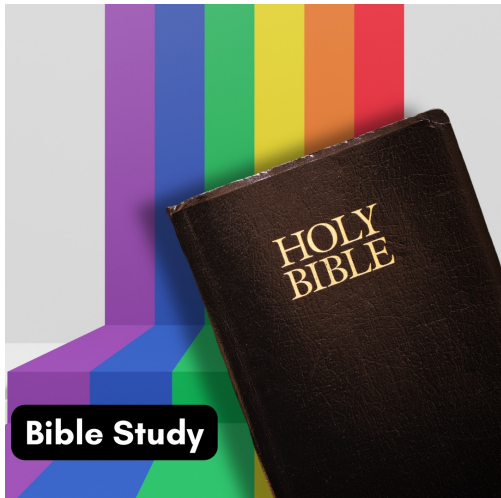
**This Week at a Glance
April 16 - 22**

Sunday:

11 AM - Online and In-Person Holy Humour Sunday Service

Thursday:

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



Bible Study

Note: There's no bible study on April 18

Tuesday | 7:00 PM

[ZOOM Link](#)

Meeting ID: 897 1945 8479

Password: 559690



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 

