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"I would always rather be happy than dignified."

– Charlotte Bronte

MCC Toronto's Pride Celebration Service to be hosted at our Church

MCC Toronto recently asked for your input on helping us decide on whether to host this year's **Church on Church Pride Celebration Service** at a new (to us) indoor venue that is Village-adjacent, or at our Church home. By a 60-40 split, you responded overwhelming in favour of this year's Pride Celebration Service being hosted in our spiritual home. And so it shall be!

I do want to acknowledge that many folks who supported the other option told us how important that felt it was to have MCC Toronto be more front and centre in the Village during the Toronto Pride weekend, both as a way of bringing visibility to our work and mission, and as a way of attracting new potential congregants. Please know that I could not agree more! The reality this year, however, was that Pride Toronto was not able to accommodate us on any of their diminished number of outdoor stages, and that the beautiful Ryerson Theatre (which hosted us in 2019) is no longer available for community use. We see a return to our Church home for Pride Celebrations in 2023 as an interim one-year step, and we have already begun internal discussion that will see us return to the Village in 2024.

While this decision may be disappointing to some, I do want to reassure everyone that MCC Toronto will be very visible at Pride in other ways. We will be hosting a Community Booth on **Friday, Saturday and Sunday (June 23 – 25)** and we expect to have a sizable and enthusiastic delegation participating in the **Pride Parade (June 25)**. And we also intend to increase our promotions budget to let the wider community know that their Pride could not possibly be complete without them joining our MCC Toronto family for our spectacular Pride Celebration Service!

We look forward to sharing MCC Toronto's full Pride month plans and scheduling in next week's Query.

And on a final note, MCC Toronto - as always - is deeply reliant on our communities to realize our special Pride activities and events. We would be grateful for your consideration in making a special Pride donation below.

- Rev. Deana Dudley,
Acting Senior Pastor

MAKE A PRIDE DONATION TODAY

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PS: Don't forget to pre-order your commemorative 50th Anniversary T Shirt! Details [here](#).

ORDER YOUR T SHIRT TODAY



BACK IN 1973 WHAT THINGS COST

As MCC Toronto celebrates its 50th Anniversary in 2023, we have launched 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 what things cost!

For those in the housing market in Toronto in 1973, we are sure the prospect of having to pay almost the equivalent of your annual family income to buy an average home in Toronto felt daunting! Especially with a 5-year mortgage at 9.56%!

- The price of oil doubled due to the Yom Kippur War, contributing to inflation nearing tripling to 9.6%. Stats Canada estimated food price increases averaged 13.3% from Jan to August of that year.
- A recession began in the western world that lasted until 1975.
- Canada's average family income was \$47,231 while the average "unattached" individual earned \$19,125.
- Toronto's average home price was \$40,605.
- Toronto's average rent was less than \$150.
- Household costs:
 - Milk: \$1.31/carton
 - Eggs: .78/dozen
 - Coffee, instant: \$1.09/10 oz jar
 - Bread: .29/loaf
 - Oreos: .59/box
 - Cereal: .55/15 oz box
 - Shampoo: .99/15 oz bottle
- Amusement/everyday costs:
 - A comic book: .20
 - A Canadian first-class stamp: .08
 - Movie tickets: less than \$1.50
 - Stereo, AM/FM radio, 8-track player: \$70-150

- For car fans:
 - Mercedes-Benz had starting prices at \$10,000.
 - Most Volvos cost more than a Corvette that year.
 - An AM radio for your Dodge Colt cost more than half as much as an automatic transmission.
 - You could choose from a souped-up Toyota ST for \$3,093 or a convertible Super Beetle from Volkswagen for \$2,844.

What do you most wish still cost the same today as it did in 1973? [Let us know!](#)

- Jennifer Alexander & Lori Boyce



Call for Nominations | MCC Toronto's Board of Directors

The Nominating Committee of the Board of Directors invites all members and congregants to consider the opportunity to put their names forward for consideration to join the MCC Toronto Board of Directors.

The Committee is seeking up to two candidates who will be presented to members, and voted upon, at the Annual Congregational Business Meeting (ACBM) on Sunday, June 11 following the Worship Service. The application portal, which is now open, will close on **May 29, 2023**, at **5 PM**.

[LEARN MORE & APPLY TODAY](#)

Board Update | Senior Pastor Search

Dear Members & Congregants,

The Board of Directors is pleased to share that we have commenced the work on the search for our new Senior Pastor. We started by meeting with two leaders from UFMCC, Rev Dexter Brecht, Church Support and Development Coordinator, and Rev Cathy Alexander, Vocational Support Coordinator, to discuss best practices and help ground us in the search process. The UFMCC Pastoral search process is thorough and we will keep you updated throughout.

The Senior Pastor Search Committee has been formed with four members from the Board of Directors, Joe Jamieson, Lee Moran, Stephenie Naugler and Kevin Wilcock, and are reaching out to a few congregants to be part of the Committee.

The Committee is currently in the planning stage and has created a project timeline with the hope of having a new pastor in place by December 2023.

The Committee would be very appreciative of the congregation's input on the kind of spiritual leader we need to have now and for the future of our church. We will be sending out a survey

Musical Guest



Julie Michels is our in-person Offertory Performer this Sunday!

Julie is, quite simply, a woman with a beautiful voice. She sings everything and anything that catches her ear: jazz standards, rhythm and blues, Brazilian sambas, African chanting – in a world full of music, it's a banquet of sound just too delicious to pass up! She has played with George Koller, Ottawa's Chelsea Bridge, Kevin Barrett and her bands Sutra and The Parley at many popular jazz venues including the Montreal Bistro, Top of the Senator, the Rex, Hugh's Room, Ottawa's National Arts Centre, Toronto's own Statler's and Canadian and European festivals.

Julie's CDs include *Singing Naked* (duets with bassist George Koller), *Live at Statler's* (with guitarist Kevin Barrett), the soundtrack for *Pivoting Echoes* (debuted with one of Canada's premier dance companies, the Decidedly Jazz Danceworks) and *Seriously Happy* with the Royal Jelly Orchestra.

Julie is a featured artist on The Choir's second CD, *Connected: Songs for the Heart*, which is available for sale at our Information Centre and online on iTunes. Julie is also one third of the popular trio *Broadway*, also featuring Heather Bambrick and Diane Leah. For details, go to their website: www.thebroadwayshow.com

MAY 14 | 11 AM | MCC Toronto's YouTube Channel

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

Children's Church | Returns May 14

Bi-weekly Children's Church returns this **Sunday (May 14)** 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!

MCC Toronto's Trans Group | May 15 @ 7 PM

Last month's launch of MCC Toronto's new trans group saw a lovely group of non-cis people come together to get to know each other, talk about lives and journeys, and dream about what the group could be.

By the end of the evening, our group had reached a consensus about exploring the intersections of trans-ness and spirituality together. That's where we'll pick up this month!

If you're not cis and would like to join us, you're welcome to come out to the social hall on Monday, **May 15, at 7 PM**. And if you want to connect but can't make it this Monday, we meet on the third Monday of each month.

Men's Retreat 2023 | Registration Closes May 22



2023 Men's Retreat will take place from **May 26 – 28** at **Jericho House** in beautiful Niagara Region. It is open to self-identifying males, with an all-in registration fee of \$260, which covers accommodation, food, and participation costs. Scholarships are available for those needing financial assistance. Please reach out [here](#) to request a Scholarship Fund Application form.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

To make the Retreat available and accessible to folks who might not otherwise be able to afford the full registration fee, please consider making a charitable tax receiptable gift below.

[MAKE A SCHOLARSHIP FUND DONATION](#)



TIME CAPSULE

MCC Toronto has launched a Time Capsule Project for its 50th Anniversary, and we invite our entire MCC Toronto family to take part!

[LEARN MORE AND GET INVOLVED!](#)

Volunteer with us!

MCC Toronto is incredibly grateful to the hundreds of volunteers who help support our Worship Services and other public programs. Please note at this time we are unable to accept new applications for Worship Team volunteer demands due to a high volume of interest. Please check out our website for other great volunteer opportunities including:

Garden Faeries are back after a 4-year hiatus! We're looking for 5 eager team members to help rejuvenate and maintain the church gardens and grounds between May and October 2023. It is expected that Garden Faeries will be able to dedicate up to 5 hours a month. No experience is necessary, just your love of nature and eagerness to make our outdoor space beautiful and welcoming for all who visit. Interested in this opportunity - sign up below!

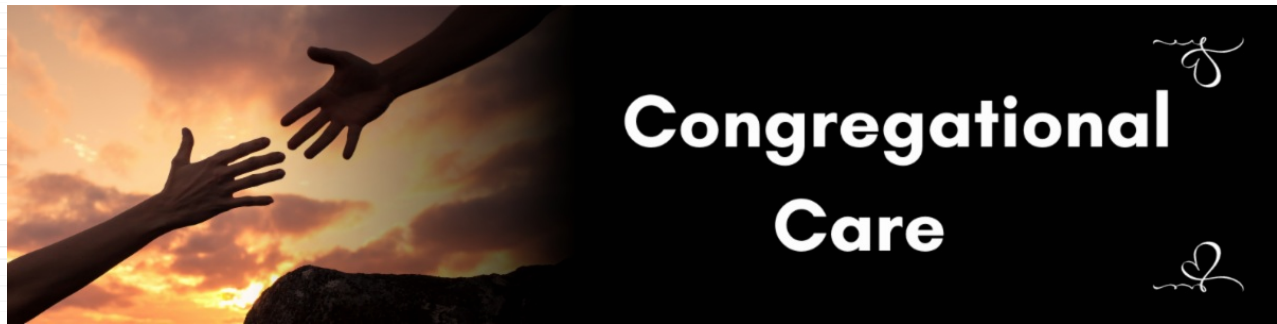
[SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER HERE](#)

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](https://www.mcctoronto.com) 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 May 14 - 20

Sunday:

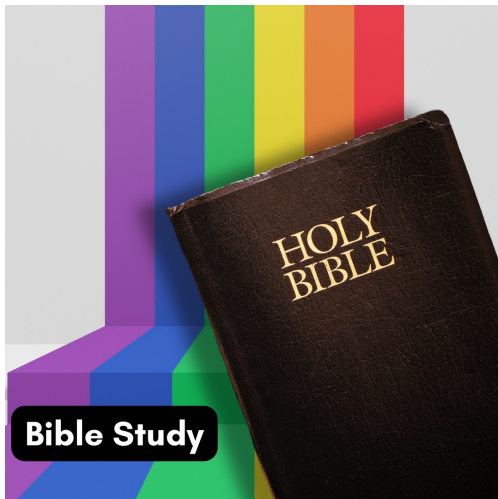
11 AM - Online and In-Person Sunday Service

11 AM - Children Church

Thursday:

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

3 PM - [Digital Fellowship Hall](#)



[Bible Study](#)
Bible Study returns MAY 23



[Digital Fellowship Hall](#)
Thursday | 3:00 PM
[ZOOM Link](#)
Meeting ID: 889 7843 8853
Password: 560461



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

Connect with us at communications@mcctoronto.com



Sent with love 