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“When you put love out in the world it travels, and it can touch people and reach people in ways that we never even expected.”

— Laverne Cox

## 50 Acts of Kindness

50 days out to our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary date



Last week we completed the 50 days of the Easter Season, and this coming Sunday (May 28) we celebrate Pentecost. (“Pentecost” is actually a Greek word that means “fiftieth.”) As this is MCC Toronto’s 50th Anniversary year, you have already heard us use that number a lot! And starting at this week’s Sunday Worship you will be hearing it even more as we commence another 50-day season that will take us to July 17, which is the actual anniversary date of MCC Toronto’s founding in 1973. We’re celebrating this 50-day countdown to our anniversary date by launching “50 Acts of Kindness,” a series looking at some of the ways we can transform our lives and the lives of others through compassion, consideration, good will and, of course, kindness.

Kicking off our 50 Acts of Kindness season from the pulpit



this Sunday is Rev. Dr. Brent Hawkes, MCC Toronto's Senior Pastor Emeritus who will preach about the importance of being kind to ourselves.

Starting this Monday, and continuing weekly until July 17, we will begin publishing a list of acts of kindness as shared by our MCC Toronto family. On Monday, MCC Toronto staff will share their stories. And in the days and weeks ahead we hope you will share your acts of kindness with us as well. Watch for an announcement on our social media channels on Monday, and more details in next week's Query!

Blessings,  
Rev. Deana Dudley  
Acting Senior Pastor

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## Sanctuary Project – Update



As a follow-up to last year's Congregational Campaign in support of the **ELEVATION Campaign**, I am very pleased to update you on the timeline and scope of the upcoming Sanctuary project. Thanks to the generosity of our members and congregations, the total budget for the Sanctuary Project is \$165,000.

Following our Anniversary Sunday Service on July 16, 2023, MCC Toronto will be moving our weekly Worship Services into the McCain Family Social Hall for the remainder of July and August, with a hope of returning to the Sanctuary in time for a celebratory Homecoming later in September. An internal transition team has already been formed, and we are working hard to ensure the highest quality audio presentation and a continuation of our livestreaming capabilities from our temporary 8-week Worship home in the Social Hall.

Although worship-related volunteer opportunities will be limited during this time, we are working on launching a Refugee Volunteer Empowerment Program (RVEP) in the coming weeks to empower our refugee members and offer them meaningful ways to contribute to our church community.

Beginning immediately on July 17, the Sanctuary Project will see a transformation of our beloved spiritual home. Here are the items included in the project scope:

- Repairing/patching all wall and ceiling surfaces
- Removal of outdated wiring
- Painting the entire Sanctuary, including walls, ceiling, columns and the floors underneath the pews (Note: natural wood features currently in the Sanctuary – including the pews – will NOT be painted)
- Replacement of some carpeting on the main floor
- Installation of two large fans to improve air circulation
- Installation of handrails on both sides of the chancel to improve accessibility
- Lighting improvements

The project will be ably guided by Santiago Arias, our Interim Facilities Manager.

A very special thanks to Anne Brayley & Nanette Sanson and Andrew Fleming & Roger Keglevich who together contributed a wonderful matching gift \$75,000 to the Congregational Campaign, Lori Boyce & Jennifer Alexander and Doug Kerr & Michael Went who served as Campaign Co-Chairs, and to the many, many, many congregants and members who made a Congregational Campaign gift. Following completion of the project, a Donor plaque will be installed in the Sanctuary as a in perpetuity celebration of the donors who made these Sanctuary improvements possible. And as previously announced, we will be installing a sign for the renamed "Rev. Dr. Brent Hawkes Inter-Faith Chapel".

If you have any questions about the Campaign, please reach out to [John R. Farrell, our Senior Director of Development & Communications](#). If you have project questions, you can direct them [to me](#).

- Shannon Malloch,  
Executive Director & Acting COO



*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 what was happening in our Metropolitan Community Church denomination.*

For perspective, on October 6, 1968, 12 worshippers gathered in the home of Reverend Troy Perry in Huntington Park, California, birthing what is today an international movement promoting a life-transforming message of spiritual acceptance and affirmation for gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgender persons. MCC has a presence in over 20 countries and on every inhabitable continent.

In 1969 congregations were formed in LA, San Francisco, San Diego, Costa Mesa, Chicago, Phoenix, Hawaii, Dallas, and Miami.

- In 1973, in response to a petition, UFMCC began its Global Outreach with congregations in London, England and Toronto!
- By-laws were written at the General Conference to be less sexist and more inclusive.
- Reverend Freda Smith became the first ordained woman in MCC and was also elected to the MCC Board of Elders.
- In January 1973, the MCC LA sanctuary was destroyed by a blaze.
- In March 1973, a fire was set at the Nashville MCC.
- Most tragically, on June 24, 1973, a suspected arsonist attacked the Up Stairs Lounge gay bar in New Orleans. The second-floor location had previously hosted MCC services and was frequently a gathering spot for parishioners. 29 people, including the MCC pastor, Reverend Bill Larson, died. Nearly a third of their members were killed or injured. The official cause is still listed as "undetermined origin". (This story has been documented in a terrific book called *Tinderbox: The Untold Story of the Up Stairs Lounge and the Rise of Gay Liberation* by Robert W. Fieseler)
- July 17, 1973: UFMCC sent Reverend Bob Wolfe from LA to establish MCC



Toronto. The first service was held in office space above a bar on Yonge Street.

Our denomination was founded when 12 people had the audacity to believe they could be both gay and loved by God. Rev Perry apparently remarked that “Nine were my friends who came to console me and to laugh, and three came as a result of an ad in the Advocate promoting a worship service for gays.” We have been on the vanguard of fighting for GLBTQ+ rights ever since – and our work is not yet done! In the words of Elie Wiesel: “There may be times when we are powerless to prevent injustice, but there must never be a time when we fail to protest.”

- Jennifer Alexander & Lori Boyce

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## Musical Guest



**Mary Kelly** is our Offertory Performer this Sunday!

Nova Scotia native, Mary 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](http://mkdivamusic.com).

**MAY 28 | 11 AM | MCC Toronto's YouTube Channel**

**CLICK HERE TO JOIN US FOR THIS SERVICE ONLINE**

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## Children's Church | Returns May 28

Bi-weekly Children's Church returns this **Sunday (May 28)** 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!



## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

MCC TORONTO  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## Call for Board Nominations Extended

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 deadline for applying has been extended to **June 19, 2023, at 5 PM**. The revised date for the Annual Congregational Business Meeting (ACBM) is **Sunday, July 9** following the Worship Service.

[LEARN MORE & APPLY TODAY](#)

## Drag Bingo in Support of The Choir | June 15 @ 7 PM

MCC Toronto invites you to join us for *Drag Bingo Extravaganza*, a special one-night fundraising event in support of The Choir of MCC Toronto.

Hosted by the fabulous Messy Margaret, with an assist from the delightful Hillary Yaas, *Drag Bingo Extravaganza* is being hosted in the McCain Family Social Hall on **Thursday, June 15 at 7 PM**. Tickets cost \$15 and are available now via the link below. Tickets will also be sold from the Info Desk during our Sunday Worship Services, and at the door on the night of the event.



[LEARN MORE AND BUY TICKETS](#)



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:*

Our Garden Faeries team is back! We're looking for 5 eager team members to help rejuvenate and maintain the church gardens and grounds between now 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](#) or contact [giving@mcctoronto.com](mailto: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 May 28 - June 3

### Sunday:

11 AM - Online and In-Person Sunday Service

11 AM - Children's Church

### Tuesday:

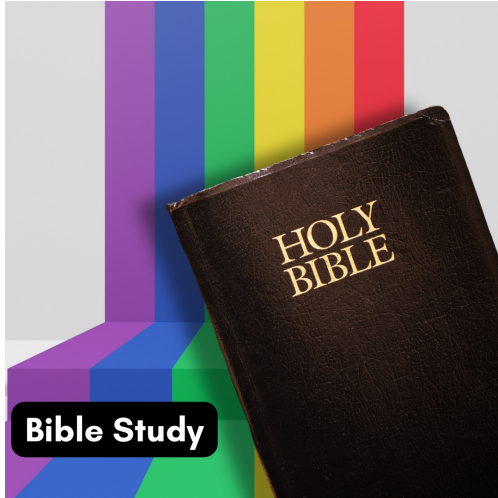
7 PM - [Bible Study](#)

### 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

#### [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



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

Connect with us at [communications@mcctoronto.com](mailto:communications@mcctoronto.com)



Sent with love 

