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- Dave Kerr

50th Anniversary Service + Community Picnic | July 16



All year long (and before!) MCC staff and dedicated volunteers have been working on some fabulous events and activities to celebrate our 50th Anniversary this year in style! Some of these you've heard about (like the Time Capsule), and come of them, you haven't.

As Acting Senior Pastor, it gives me great joy to announce some of our upcoming plans for YOU! We will be celebrating our 50th Anniversary with a SUPER special Service on **July 16**, with special musical performances, as well as other surprises and delights. Then we will be hosting a Community Picnic in Riverdale Park East, just down the street from the church, with food and games for everyone from **1 - 4 PM** – this is open to the whole community and will be a fun opportunity to hang out with our church friends and celebrate together!

So, save the date – **Sunday, July 16.**

- Rev. Deana Dudley,
Acting Senior Pastor

World Refugee Day | June 20

On World Refugee Day (**Wednesday, June 20**), we express solidarity with all LGBTQ+ refugees, especially in Uganda where they face heightened risks and vulnerabilities due to the recent enactment of extremely draconian laws targeting same-sex acts. MCC Toronto stands as a beacon of support, providing a haven and amplifying the voice of LGBTQ+ refugees here in Canada and in other parts of the world. We continue to echo our immense concerns about the expanded Safe Third Country Agreement, which compels individuals to return to the US, where they may encounter significant harm. This expansion undermines the safety and well-being of LGBTQ+ refugees. Let us join to advocate for their rights and strive for a future where they find security and acceptance.

- Dave Kerr,
Director, LGBTQ+ Refugee Programs

National Indigenous Peoples Day | June 21

This coming **Thursday, June 21**, is National Indigenous Peoples Day. At MCC Toronto, we often acknowledge that the land we work and worship on is, and always has been, home to many indigenous peoples, and the rest of us are settlers. I am often struck that we may need also to acknowledge the immense harm the church has historically caused marginalized people, especially indigenous communities. On this National Indigenous day, let us reflect that as people of faith, we must commit to healing those wounds and creating right relationship between our peoples.

- Rev. Deana Dudley,
Acting Senior Pastor

Pride Celebration Service | June 25 | 10:30 AM





In the above video, Rev. Junia expresses for all of us at MCC Toronto the importance of Pride month, and the reasons why everyone should join us for our Church on Church Pride Celebration Service.

Join the [Facebook Event](#) to help us spread the word! And please consider making a Pride donation to help support our activities.

[MAKE A PRIDE DONATION](#)

Anniversary Awards | Nominations Open

This year, MCC Toronto will be presenting our Annual Anniversary Awards and membership medallions a week earlier (**Sunday, July 9**) to make way for an already packed 50th Anniversary Sunday Service on **July 16**.

Members and congregants are now invited to make their nominations for MCC Toronto's Anniversary Awards: The Blessed Disciple Award, The Community Service Award, and The Vision Alive Award. Nominations will close on **June 30** at **5 PM**. Please link below to read the criteria and to put your nominations forward today!

[LEARN MORE](#)



BACK IN 1973
TORONTO

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 Toronto.

While MCC Toronto's formation in a space above a gay bar on Yonge Street is surely a highlight for most of us, here are other notable things going on in Toronto in 1973.

- Construction of the CN Tower began. It would become the tallest free-standing structure in the world between 1975 and 2007. At the time, it was said the Tower "... resembled an oversized tree stump, plunked into an industrial stretch of Toronto next to the railway tracks." It became an iconic landmark, impacting the Toronto skyline forever.
- Queen Elizabeth II came to Toronto and officially opened Scarborough's new Civic Centre and visited Queen's Park, Ontario Place, and High Park, where she released 100 tagged bass into Grenadier Pond as part of Ontario Conservation Week. She also re-opened Osgoode Hall and attended the Queen's plate.
- Judy LaMarsh became a visiting professor of law at Osgoode, becoming the first woman to teach at the law school.
- Jean Augustine founded the Toronto chapter of the Congress of Black Women of Canada- a national non-profit organization started by Kay Livingstone, dedicated to improving the lives of all Black women and their families.
- David Crombie was in his second year of serving as mayor – a position he held until 1978 when he resigned to serve as a Progressive Conservative MP.
- The very first Pride Week was held in Toronto, simultaneously, with other major Canadian cities.
- Like MCC Toronto, our friends at The ArQuives (formerly the Canadian Lesbian and Gay Archives) also formed in Toronto in 1973.
- The TTC approved a plan to build an east-west subway line across Queen Street, subject to the province paying 75% of the cost. The Ontario government demanded a study showing it would meet Toronto's needs. The plan was killed two year later. However, the remnants of "Lower Queen Station" remain.
- In 1973, William Hodgson, reportedly saved the Old Mill from demolition for residential development by closing the building for massive renovations, adding new sections, including a wedding chapel and major restorations and decorations.

Toronto has long been at the centre of controversial development, struggles with Queen's Park, and activism. Has anything really changed? [Let us know!](#)

- Jennifer Alexander & Lori Boyce

Musical Guest



Arinea Hermans is our Offertory Performer this Sunday!

Arinea is a Dora-nominated singer and actor. Recent credits include *Murder at Ackerton Manor* (Tweed & Co.); *Elvis Has Left the Building* (Stage West Calgary); *Into the Woods* (STC/YES); *Grow* (The Grand Theatre); *The Adventures of Pinocchio*, *Seussical* (Young People's Theatre – Dora nominations for both); and *Obeah Opera* (Luminato Festival); *UnCovered* (The Musical Stage Co.).

Arinea is a graduate of Sheridan College's Bachelor of Music Theatre program.

Important Board & ACBM Announcements

Senior Pastor Search | Survey

REMINDER: The members of the Senior Pastor Search Committee would like to hear the congregation's thoughts and perspectives on the kind of Senior Pastor MCC Toronto needs to guide and steward us into the future. Please take a few minutes to complete the online survey below. Paper copies of the survey are available at the Info Desk. The Committee would be grateful to receive your responses by **Sunday, June 18** – completed paper surveys can be returned to the Info Desk.

[TAKE SURVEY NOW](#)

Board Nominations

REMINDER: 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 Annual Congregational Business Meeting (ACBM) is **Sunday, July 9** following the Worship Service.

[NOMINATION PORTAL OPEN](#)

SAVE THE DATE | 2023 ACBM | July 9

Our Annual Congregational Business Meeting (ACBM) 2023 will be held on **Sunday, July 9**, after the Worship Service. Please save the date.

Toronto Police Services Board

and Chief Myron Demkiw's Pride Reception | June 22

Congregants and community members are welcome to join us for food and entertainment on **June 22** from **5:30 PM** to **8 PM** as MCC Toronto co-hosts this year's Toronto Police Service Board's Pride Reception in our McCain Family Social Hall.



TIME CAPSULE



Have you made your submission to our 50th Anniversary Time Capsule project yet? Read

more and participate via the link below, or pick-up a Time Capsule form at the Info Desk during our Sunday Services.

[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 click on the link below for other volunteer opportunities.

[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!](#)

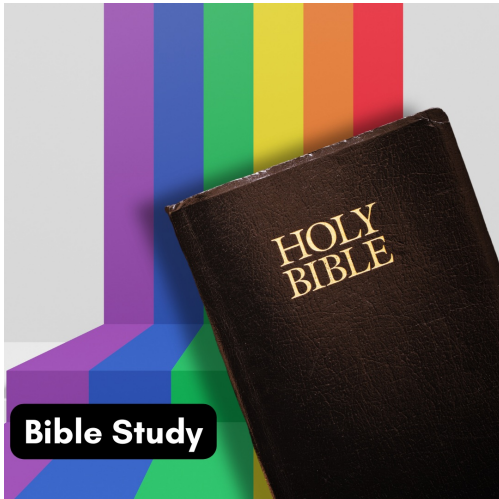
This Week at a Glance June 18 - 24

Sunday:

11 AM - Online and In-Person Sunday Service

Thursday:

10:30 AM - Ever Wonder Group Discussion
(Email: everwonder@mcctoronto.com)
5 PM - Toronto Police Board Pride Reception at MCC Toronto



Bible Study

[Bible Study](#)
Resumes in September



Digital Fellowship Hall

[Digital Fellowship Hall](#)
Resumes in September



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

Connect with us at communications@mcctoronto.com



Sent with love 

