



The Query

eNews for the MCC Toronto community

"It's been an amazing 50 years - and you're just getting started."

- Rev. Dr. Brent Hawkes, CM

Join Us in Celebration of 50 Years of MCC Toronto!



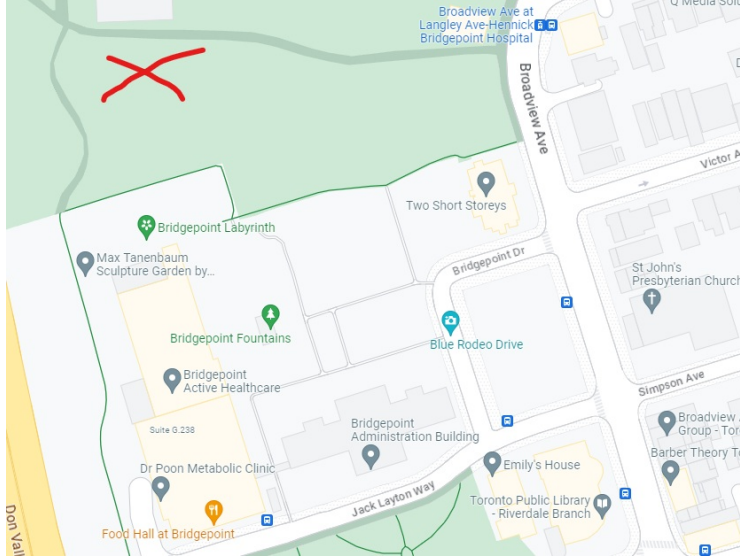
**50th Anniversary
Celebration Service**

Community Picnic



This Sunday's (**July 16**) 50th Anniversary Worship Service celebration won't be ending with the closing song – we'll continue to celebrate with a special Community Picnic down the block at Riverdale Park! Join your fellow MCC Toronto family for an afternoon of good food and good fun to keep the party going.

We'll be serving burgers and dogs hot off the bbq, along with drinks and sides. The picnic site is a short walk west from MCC Toronto. Please note that, due to construction on Broadview Ave., picnic-goers will need to cross Broadview at Gerrard St. MCC Toronto has reserved picnic areas 1 and 2 – both located near the southwest corner of the park (down the hill near the washroom building – X marks the spot per map below).



Picnic tables and chairs will be available, but for folks who can easily bring a picnic blanket or folding chair, these items might come in handy. If the skies look cloudy, grab your umbrella, because we're planning to gather rain or shine.

Feel free to bring a frisbee, a ball, bocce set, or any other outdoor games you might want to bring along for an afternoon at the park. We'll be joining in a few ice-breakers and get-to-know-you games, too.

We hope to see you there – this Sunday, after worship!

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

MCC Toronto 50th Anniversary T Shirts!



If you have pre-ordered a T Shirt, you can pick it up this Sunday (**July 16**), at the Service.

If you are interested in buying one, you can purchase with **debit/dredit or exact change**.

LEARN MORE & ORDER YOURS TODAY!

2023 Anniversary Awards & Membership Medallion Milestones



At our Sunday, July 9 Worship Service, MCC Toronto was very proud to announce the 2023 recipients of our Annual Anniversary Awards and to celebrate special milestones of our members.

Congratulations to Dameon, this year's Beloved Disciple award recipient, and André Goh who was recognized for his exceptional Community Service. It was with full heart that MCC Toronto awarded Mark (Oak) J. Asselin our Vision Alive Award for realizing a transformational vision for our renovated Social Hall and public spaces.

[LEARN MORE](#)



BACK IN 1973

FLO GIBBONS

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 talk to Flo Gibbons!

Long-time congregant and member Flo Gibbons, wears her young of heart age of 92 like a badge of honour. And she deserves to! As a congregant who I met shortly after my arrival at MCC Toronto in 2018, Flo has always been an incredible source of joy for me. She is quick with a joke, has a beautiful and melodic laugh, and continues to live her best life EVERY DAY. She is an inspiration, and a much-loved member of the MCC Toronto Family.



And when we speak of “lived experience”, Flo’s got plenty of it!

For the past 15 weeks, we have featured Back in 1973 columns about Canada and the world, and about the happenings that defined life back in 1973. I thought for this column, I would chat with Flo about what life was like for her back in 1973 when she was a spry and no-less energetic-than-she-is-today 42-year-old!

In 1973, Flo and her partner Bobbie Sherwin had already been together for 16 years. Flo tells me that they met at a Women’s Club back in 1957 at a “dirty little place” since gay women at the time would not have the same resources as gay men. They lived in the Islington Ave/Dixon Road area and had a bird’s eye view of the Toronto Airport. While Flo was close to her various siblings, there was never much discussion about the nature of her relationship with Bobbie. (Sidenote: Much like a great Aunt of mine who was in a 50+ year relationship with her “roommate”, which somehow was never talked about by my family). Like so many before and after 1973, Flo and Bobbie’s social life was spent at dinner and/or dance parties in the homes of chosen family members. Flo does admit that her and Bobbie would occasionally skip out to the “Jay” Bar for dancing!

In 1973, Flo worked for the City of Toronto’s Public Health department while Bobbie was a “Bell girl”. And while both were women of faith, there were no church options available to them. Flo doesn’t precisely remember when they discovered MCC Toronto though she believes it would have been around 1985 when our Church was located in the Gerrard Street East/Woodbine Avenue area. To both of them, it was a revelation! Their connection to the Church, and the friends they made inside its doors, brought comfort and love to both of them when Bobbie tragically died of cancer in 2004. Flo cherishes every minute of their 47 years together.

And Flo continues to cherish every minute of her connection to MCC Toronto.

(And we to you as well Flo!)

- John R. Farrell
Senior Director Development & Communications

Musical Guest



Julie Michels is our featured performer this Anniversary 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

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

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

Reminder: Temporary Relocation of Worship Services

Due to renovations in our beloved Sanctuary which begin on **July 17**, our Worship Services will be moving to the McCain Family Social Hall beginning **Sunday, July 23**. Our team is working hard to make this transition as smooth as possible for our members and congregants.

MCC Toronto's Human Rights Events



Proud Voices

Please mark your calendars to join us for what promises to be an evening full of engaging conversation and community! Our guest on **Friday, July 28**, will be Rev. Heather Morgan (she/her), an emerging crip theologian who has spent over twenty years working in activism, advocacy, and support for those with disabilities. Read more [HERE](#).

"All Bodies Are Good Bodies" FREE Yoga Classes

Join us for free, beginner-friendly classes for all ages, abilities, bodies, and genders to practice self-care in a space free of judgment and full of joy! Next class: **Monday, July 17**, at **6 PM**. Register [HERE](#).



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

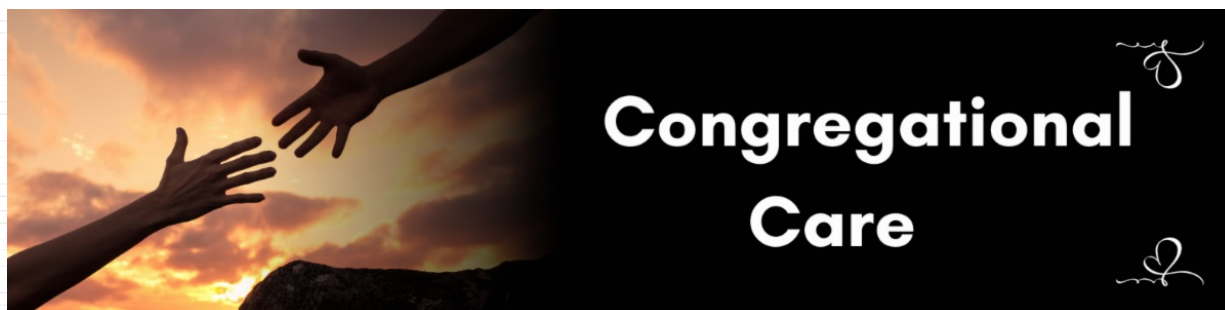
interest. Please click on the link below to view other volunteer opportunities.

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.



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 July 16 - 22

Sunday:

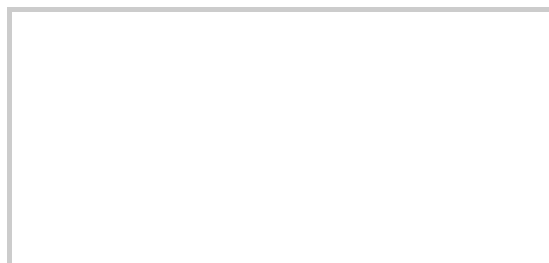
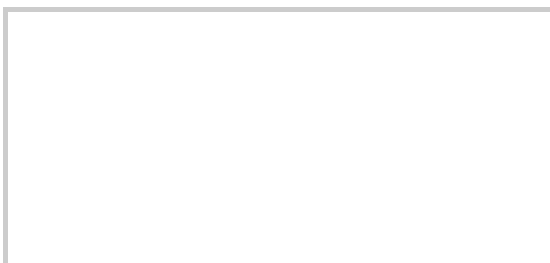
11 AM - 50th Anniversary Celebration Service
1 PM - Community Picnic

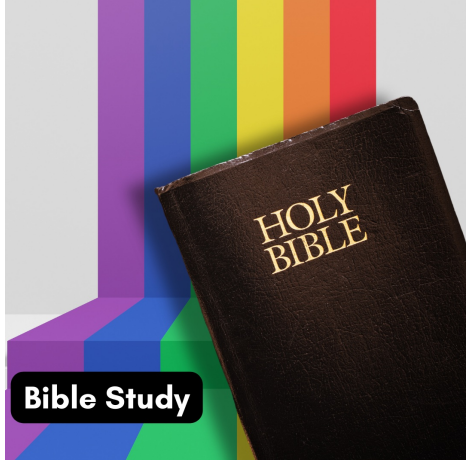
Thursday:

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

Monday

6 PM - FREE Yoga Class
7 PM - Not Cis Trans-ness and Spirituality Meet-Up





Bible Study

Bible Study
Resumes in September



Digital Fellowship Hall

Digital Fellowship Hall
Resumes in September



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

Connect with us at communications@mcctoronto.com



Sent with love ❤️



on behalf of MCC Toronto | 115 Simpson Avenue, Toronto, M4K 1A1 Canada

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