



"All of us deserve freedom, not because we fought some fights and won. We are free because God created us to be free."

- Rev. Deana Dudley

Worship Services Temporarily Relocate to Social Hall



Dear Members and Congregants,

Beginning this Sunday (**June 23**), MCC Toronto's weekly **11 AM** Worship Services will relocate to the McCain Social Hall while our beloved Sanctuary undergoes renovation.

While we explored temporarily relocating our Services to another venue through the course of the Sanctuary project, we felt that the costs were far too prohibitive. Besides, MCC Toronto is our home – we felt you our members and congregants would feel more connected to us (and us to you) in our own space. This decision, of course, means that we will face a temporary situation where we may simply not have enough seats to

accommodate our growing MCC Toronto family. What a problem to have! Many churches struggle to fill a fraction of their available seats, but MCC Toronto will have the opposite issue for a number of Sundays. *This is not a bad problem to have!*

We can accommodate up to 162 congregants in our new Social Hall set-up (including dedicated seating and spaces for those with walkers and wheelchairs) as well as an additional 30 congregants to watch the Service on the screen in our Rainbow Room. We have set up a state-of-the-art sound and multi-media system that is likely better than the one we had in the Sanctuary. We have relocated our cameras to the Social Hall to see a continuation of our livestreamed services. And we have worked with our worship volunteers to ensure all aspects of our Services are maintained.

We encourage folks who are thinking of attending Service this Sunday to arrive a bit earlier than usual. And if we find ourselves in a situation where we can't accommodate everyone this Sunday, we ask for your patience, understanding and grace. We've worked hard to make this transition as smooth as it can be, and we'll make adjustments in the weeks ahead as needed. We want to hear from you throughout this process – so please send your feedback to info@mcctoronto.com.

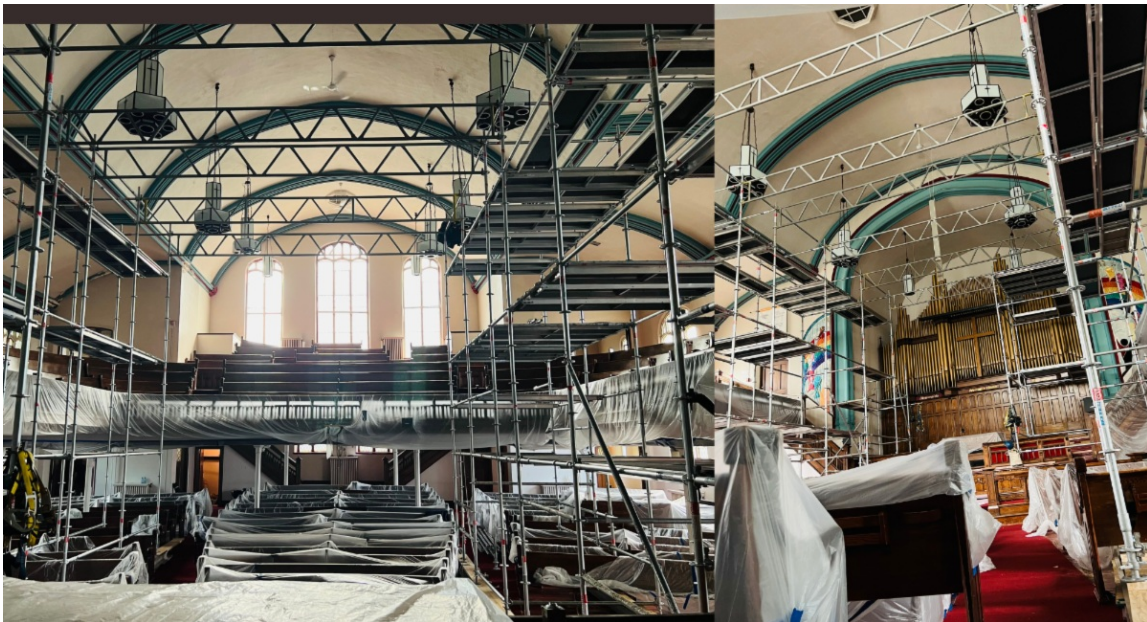
Renovation timelines are always fuzzy, but we're expecting the Sanctuary project to wrap up by mid to late September. That means our Sanctuary will re-open in time for Homecoming.

...and what a glorious Homecoming that will be!

Peace & Blessings,

- Rev. Deana Dudley,
Acting Senior Pastor & CEO

And Just Like That ... | Sanctuary Project



We thought members and congregants might enjoy a first glimpse of our beloved Sanctuary as it prepares for much-needed renovations. As previously announced, the Project will see the wall and ceilings repaired, the installation of new fans and accessibility features, select new lighting and carpet replacement, as well as the entirety of our Sanctuary painted.

Thank You All for a Memorable

50th Anniversary Service



Last Sunday (**July 16**) was the most amazing Sunday! Our 50th Anniversary Service was so fabulous. Huge shout-out to Jason Jestadt, Julie Michels, The Choir and the band, for the upbeat music from our founding year, 1973. And it was so great to have present so many clergy who have faithfully served this church over the years – our usual clergy team was augmented with Rev. Dr. Brent Hawkes, Rev. Jeff Rock and Rev. Sam Morris. It was wonderful to see them all! And, of course, we extend a big thanks to the 600 members and congregants who joined us for this special service.



Then the picnic! Our first Community picnic was held just down the street at Riverdale Park, and we had well almost 300 people in attendance, and we fed them all! Many thanks to Dameon and his team of volunteers who made a whole lot of grub – burgers, hot dogs, salads, desserts – to satisfy all who came. Special thanks to Michael McCain and our friends at Maple Leaf Foods for their food donation. There were games, fellowship and fun!

But we could not have done it without a LOT of volunteers. From the kitchen crew, to the musicians, to the worship volunteers, and especially the folks who helped move things out of the Sanctuary (in preparation for our Sunday services in the Social Hall this summer), to every one of you who gave of your time and efforts. MCC Toronto has THE BEST volunteers, and we thank you so much!

We're not done celebrating our 50th Anniversary. Much more to come - and here's to the next 50 years!

- Rev. Deana Dudley,

Musical Guest



Billy Newton-Davis is our Offertory Performer, this Sunday!

Billy is a singer/songwriter/recording artist and four-time Juno Award winner. He has performed in venues across Europe and North America and has sung with artists such as Celine Dion and is perhaps best known for his extensive work with The Nylons.

Billy also donates his talent towards numerous humanitarian causes including AIDS awareness, Actors Equity, and housing for people living with mental illness.

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

Celebrating Our Retiring Board Members



At our Annual Congregational Business Meeting (ACBM) hosted on July 9, MCC Toronto

welcomed James Beattie, Colleen Kenny and Valerie Mills to our Board of Directors along with returning members Susan Leslie-Berkis, Lee Sef B. Moran, Stephenie Naugler, Sylvie Pelletier and Kevin Willcock. You can read all current Board member bios [here](#).

We also said goodbye to Bradley Hickman, Joe Jamieson and Bentley Springer, three retiring Board members, who have each left an indelible mark on MCC Toronto. We asked their Board colleagues to share a few words about their impact.



Bradley Hickman has been a MCC Toronto member since 2004. Over the years, Brad has been a tireless MCC Toronto volunteer, serving in many positions and capacities including Worship Co-ordinator, a member of the Board since 2020, and as Co-Chair of the Board (2021-2023). Brad has also been a long-time organizer with the MCC Toronto's Men's Retreat and has been instrumental in its enduring success.

"MCC Toronto loves the Bradley Hickmans of the world. When Brad makes a commitment, it is real and the task is guaranteed to be completed. Hard working, knowledgeable, kind, supportive, takes initiative, speaks his truth, and always makes time for a good chat and laugh is how his peers might best describe him. I will forever be thankful for having the opportunity to Co-Chair the Board with Brad and we all say a big, loving thank you to Brad for being the person you are and for all the contributions you made during your time on the Board with an goal of making MCC Toronto the best church it can be."

- Susan Leslie-Berkis



Joe Jamieson has been a long-tie congregant and became an official member in 2012. He joined the Board of Directors in 2015. In his professional life, Joe is Registrar and CEO at the College of Optometrists of Ontario.

"During his two Board terms Joe has demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to the success of MCC Toronto. Joe generously shares his professional Governance & Finance experience and keeps us rooted in Christian principles. Joe often brings us back to our core values. Joe's wisdom will be missed on the Board as he moves on to other volunteer roles within MCC Toronto."

- Kevin Willcock



Bentley Springer has been a MCC Toronto member since 2012, and joined the Board in 2015. He and his wife Denise Campbell were married at MCC Toronto in 2013, and their twin boys were baptized here in 2019. In his professional life, Bentley is a Justice of the Peace.

"I have had the pleasure of working alongside Bentley not only as members of the Board but also on the Board's Engagement Committee. Bentley was key in launching this important committee prior to COVID - setting the foundation as we evolve as a church and community. Bentley's approach is very thoughtful - asking many questions to ensure we are hearing different points of view and also making sure we consider opposing views - not for the sake of argument but rather to expose it to a thorough examination - likely great attributes in a Justice of the Peace! Bentley is also well entrenched as an MCC member, bringing his wife and two young sons into the fold. As a choir member, I've also thoroughly enjoyed having Bentley occasionally join us to play the drum! A big thank you from all of us on the Board for your many contributions and we look forward to your continued contributions, whatever they may be!"

- Sylvie Pelletier

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](#).

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 23 - 29

Sunday:

11 AM - Online and in-person Worship Service

Thursday:

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

Friday:

7 PM - Proud Voices



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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