



# Welcome to Boulder Mennonite Church

Sunday, April 28, 2024

*5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in the Season of Eastertide*

## A Service of the Word



Herbert Boeckl, *Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch*, Angel's Chapel, Seckau Abbey, Styria, Austria, 1952-60

**Join the service at 9:30 a.m. Sunday morning:**

[Zoom link:](#) or call in: Dial 253 215 8782, then enter Meeting ID: 283 224 109#

**Or** join us via our audio stream: [Spreaker](#)

***Welcome to the worship service today.***

We hope it is meaningful for you and welcome you to join us again.

As a Christian community, called by Jesus to be inclusive, caring, and peace-minded, we affirm that people of any race, ethnic identity, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, age, economic status, or life situation are welcome to be in full participation in our congregation and in our denomination, MC USA.

*Boulder Mennonite Church acknowledges that we are gathering on the traditional territory of Indigenous Peoples. It was inhabited by the Ute, Cheyenne, Arapaho and Ochethi Sakowin Peoples. We affirm that settlers have specific responsibilities in the journey of reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.*



**Boulder Mennonite Church** is a vibrant, Jesus-centered community welcoming all people to know God and to be ambassadors of God's love, healing, and peace.

## GATHERING

**Prelude** *Adagio* John Tavers  
**\*Singing** God welcomes all 32

### Call to Worship

Leader: We live at Mystery's edge, watching for a light or a word  
to guide us.

**All:** *Gently the Spirit of Love is made present, and we must pause...*

Leader: Out of waiting comes birth.

**All:** *Out of the East comes the dawn.*

Leader: Out of the seed comes new life.

**All:** *Out of winter comes the spring. Out of sleep comes the awakening.  
Let us celebrate the richness and diversity of life  
in the presence of God!*

### Welcome

## CELEBRATING & PRAISING

**Singing** Praise to the Lord, the Almighty 88

**Centering Prayer** adapted from Psalm 22. 24-30

**Passing the Peace**

**Offering Invitation/Blessing**

*Please place your prayer requests in the basket with your offering.*

*At home: please type your prayer requests into the "Chat" column on Zoom or send them via email at least 2hrs prior to the worship service. Or [click here to donate online.](#)*

**Offertory** *I Love Thee, My Lord* arr. George Shearing

## HEARING

**New Testament Reading** Acts 8.26-40

An angel of God spoke to Philip and said, "Be ready to set out at noon along the road that goes to Gaza, the desert road." So Philip began his journey. It happened that an

Ethiopian eunuch, a court official in charge of the entire treasury of Candace, the ruler of Ethiopia, had come to Jerusalem on a pilgrimage and was returning home. He was sitting in his carriage and reading the prophet Isaiah. The Spirit said to Philip, “Go up and meet that carriage.” When Philip ran up, he heard the eunuch reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?”

“How can I,” the eunuch replied, “unless someone explains it to me?” With that, he invited Philip to get in the carriage with him. This was the passage of scripture being read: “You are like a sheep being led to slaughter, you are like a lamb that is mute in front of its shearers: like them, you never open your mouth. You have been humiliated and have no one to defend you. Who will ever talk about your descendants, since your life on earth has been cut short?”

The eunuch said to Philip, **“Tell me, if you will, about whom the prophet is talking—himself or someone else?”** So Philip proceeded to explain the Good News about Jesus to him. Further along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, **“Look, there is some water right there. Is there anything to keep me from being baptized?”**

He ordered the carriage to stop; **then Philip and the eunuch both went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came out of the water, the Spirit of God snatched Philip away; the eunuch didn’t see him anymore, and went on his way rejoicing.**

Philip found himself at Ashdod next, and he went about proclaiming the Good News in all the towns, until he came to Caesarea.

**Singing**

As I went down to the river to pray

453

**Gospel Reading**

John 15.1-8

Jesus said to his friends, “I am the true vine, and my Abba is the vine grower who cuts off every branch in me that doesn’t bear fruit but prunes the fruitful ones to increase their yield. You’ve been pruned already, thanks to the word that I have spoken to you.

Live on in me, as I do in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit of itself apart from the vine, neither can you bear fruit apart from me.

I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who live in me and I in them will bear abundant fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. Those who don’t live in me are like withered, rejected branches, to be picked up and thrown on the fire and burned. If you live on in me, and my words live on in you, ask whatever you want and it will be done for you.

My Abba will be glorified if you bear much fruit and thus prove to be my disciples.

**Message**

*Despised and rejected, but not by God*

**RESPONDING**

**Singing**

For everyone born



1. For eve - ry - one born, a place at the ta - ble, for eve - ry - one born, clean  
2. For young and for old, a place at the ta - ble, a voice to be heard, a  
3. For queer and for straight, a place at the ta - ble, a cov - en - ant shared, a  
4. For eve - ry - one born, a place at the ta - ble, to live with - out fear, and



wa - ter and bread; a shel - ter, a space, a safe place for grow - ing,  
part in the song, the hands of a child in hands that are wrin - kled,  
wel - com - ing place, a rain - bow of race and gen - der and co - lor,  
sim - ply to be, to work, to speak out, to wit - ness and wor - ship,



for eve - ry - one born, a star o - ver - head. And  
for young and for old, the right to be - long.  
for queer and for straight the chal - ice of grace!  
for eve - ry - one born, the right to be free!



God will de - light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice and



joy, com - pas - sion and peace: yes,



God will de - light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice, jus - tice and joy.

## Sharing Joys and Concerns Prayers of the People

### SENDING

#### Announcements

#### \*Benediction

#### \*Sending Song Sing a new world into being, vv. 1, 2



## Thanks to all who contributed to our service today!

<b>Speaker:</b>	Pastor Randy Spaulding
<b>Worship Leader:</b>	Ezra Tice
<b>Readers:</b>	Laura Minter, Douglas Minter
<b>Music:</b>	Jean McPherson, Susan Graber
<b>Tech Support:</b>	Steve Voran, Elleanna Voran
<b>Greeters:</b>	Joan & Ezra Tice
<b>Snacks:</b>	Elvira Glenn, Sandi Sanborn

**April 21:**                                      **Attendance: 50**                                      **Offering: \$ 1,480.00**

### TODAY at BMC

9:30a                      Worship and connecting  
11:00a                      **Adult Education**, sanctuary: *How We Are: Conversations on Genesis 1-11*, Ezra Tice, facilitator. **Youth Gathering:** Room 102

### THIS WEEK at BMC

5/1                      Centering Prayer small group, 11a  
5/4                      Dylan Johnson memorial service; Noon, [Peace Mennonite Church](#), Aurora

### NEXT SUNDAY – **May 5:** Sixth Sunday in the Season of Eastertide

9:30am                      Worship and mingling  
11:00am                      Education Hour: *Genesis 1-11*; facilitator Ezra Tice; Youth Gathering, Rm 102  
**Guest Presenters:**                      Emily Martin and the SOAR Youth & Adult Choir  
**Worship Leader:**                      Becky Neumann  
**Readers:**                      Joanna Harrison, Toni Diaz Bachus  
**Music:**                      Bruce Fast, Elleanna Voran, Pastor Randy  
**Tech Support:**                      Gary Stephens  
**Greeters:**                      Elvira Glenn, Karl Ortman  
**Snacks:**                      Cindy Firnhaber

### COMING UP

5/1                      Centering prayer small group, 11am  
5/9                      Church Council, 6:30pm, library  
5/15                      Centering Prayer small group, 11am  
5/21                      Deacons meet, 1pm  
5/22                      PCRC meets @BMC, 9am  
5/22                      Boulder Area Sanctuary and Immigration Coalition, 2p @BMC  
6/9                      Mennonite Hymn Sing, Glennon Heights Mennonite Church, 1pm  
7/14                      Annual BMC Congregational Meeting  
7/26-28                      MSMC Assembly at Beth-El Mennonite, Colorado Springs

## ~PRAYERS~

~for healing for **Gus Gouvas**, who had some injections to help his back pain. They are helping him.

~from **Community Peacemaker Teams**: Pray for migrants to have the courage to continue and for their safety as they travel. Gratitude for the shelter workers who are willing to face danger as they help migrants. Gratitude for CPT accompaniers. Pray that the US government will find a way to have a just immigration system. [Read more here.](#)

May Birthdays		May Anniversaries
1 – Kurt Firnhaber	12 – Hannah Dudenhefer	1 – Susan Graber & Tom Jirak
4 – Jonathan Falk	12 – Kelcie Dudenhefer	13 – Duane & Joanna Harrison
4 – Erin Dudenhefer	12 – Sheng Wheeler	19 – Linda Hardesty & Chris Friedman
7 – Sandi Sanborn	20 – Linda Hardesty	26 – Jen & David Dudenhefer
10 – Gwen Grasse	22 – Cheri Krause	
10 – Cindy Reeves Janzen	24 – Eldon Mast	
10 – Olive Loewer	28 – Duane Harrison	
10 – Douglas Minter		

*Please let us know if we failed to acknowledge your special day. We want to celebrate you!*

## ~ANNOUNCEMENTS~

*Please call in or email ([info@bouldermennonite.org](mailto:info@bouldermennonite.org)) announcements by Thursday, 7:00am.*

**DEACONS:** Carole Suderman: 303-494-8527; Paul Classen: 316-217-2355; Cheri Krause: 510-227-9712

**PASTOR RANDY’S OFFICE HOURS:** Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday: 8am to 2pm.

Friday: 9am to noon (subject to visitation/meetings). Appointments/call-aheads are encouraged.

Pastor Randy normally takes Monday as a Sabbath.

**CHURCH ADMINSTRATOR:** Ivanna is in the office on Tuesday from 6:30a to 2:30p and

Wednesday from 6a to 2p.

## ~ IN OUR COMMUNITY ~

**BMC WORK DAY, SATURDAY, MAY 11:** 7am – 10am. Everyone is invited to help keep our campus healthy and fresh! Possible work includes: clearing rocks in the back yard for better mowing; cleanup along the southeast corner of the lot where debris collects from the wind; some weeding, window washing, and painting. Let’s make it our Ebenezer Saturday – helping to clear stones and even choosing one for our next Ebenezer Sunday in 2025!



**EXCITING NEWS:** Aaron and Anne (Cox) Miller (daughter and son-in-law of Karen Cox) are excited to share that they are expecting not one, but two baby boys in August 2024! They are thrilled to be growing their family (along with Luna and Iris, their furry ones). If you would like to be included in updates or receive a link to their registry, please text your email to Anne at (720) 438-8877. *May your journey be blessed with joy and good health, Anne & Aaron!*



**RECORDING OUR BMC SERVICES**— Update: During our BMC worship services, we will no longer be recording the sharing and prayer time, out of care and caution for folks who don't want their prayers and concerns to be recorded and shared electronically. This means that our Spreaker podcast will end when the prayer and sharing time begins. Zoom participants will remain connected to worship. Thank you.

**GROUP PROCESS @BMC:** On Saturday, April 13th a small group gathered to participate in a restorative circle process intended to acknowledge the challenges and hurts that came out of the situation with the Mast family and Lilia and Eve Rumi, as well as to address what happened creating concerns impacting participation at BMC. The process was co-facilitated by *3 Stories Consulting* facilitator, Deb Witzel and the Conference Minister of Mountain States Mennonite Conference, Amy Zimbelman. Participating in the process were, Terry Mast, Kent Olsen, Cornelia Krahn, Berit Janey, Toni Diaz, Susan Graber, Joan and Ezra Tice, Cheri Krause and Pastor Randy Spaulding. The group shared their thoughts and concerns around communication, leadership and hurts they had experienced. Each person agreed to share only their own experience and not to share the details of another person's expression, in order to respect the privacy of each other. Most people named ways they could participate more fully at BMC in the future. God is faithful, and we pray that our congregation may grow more in love, grace, and service through this circle process. Much thanks to all who participated.

**SOAR! YOUTH AND ADULT CHOIR** will sing @BMC on May 5 in our morning worship service. Led by music director **Emily Martin** (*First Mennonite Church, Denver*), **SOAR!** is a Colorado Based Non-Profit that specializes in serving diverse youth including youth who are in adoptive homes, foster homes, in kinship placement, youth from single parent families as well as those who are challenged by a mental or physical health issues. An inclusive choir, they bridge the gap between youth and adults in song. They are a small ensemble at present, as they are rebuilding after the pandemic. We hope you will make plans to attend. A basket will be in the back for donations.



**HYMN SING:** All Denver area Mennonite Churches are invited to gather for a hymn sing hosted by Glennon Heights Mennonite Church in Lakewood on Sunday, June 9th, at 1p.m. A time of fellowship and refreshments will follow our time of singing. Special musical numbers from churches are welcome and encouraged.

## ~ IN THE LARGER COMMUNITY ~

**LIFE LINE SCREENING @BMC:** Thursday, August 15, 2024, 9am-5pm. BMC receives four FREE screenings for hosting (each screening valued at \$85.00). Screening for carotid artery, abdominal aortic aneurysm, peripheral arterial, or atrial fibrillation screening. See Pastor Randy for a free form. Mark your calendar now!

### **MENNONITE CHURCH USA:**

**Agroecology: Providing sustainable practices and food systems.** Pasadena Mennonite Church helped foster Celeste Sharp's passion for the environment. This interest has led Celeste to pursue an education in agroecology, with hopes of providing people with more sustainable food systems and practices. [Read about it here.](#)

**Protest as Collective Worship:** Worship is when a community gathers—using ritual, song, silence, scripture, and prayer—to turn our hearts and bodies toward God as we seek personal and corporate transformation. This is possible in marches and protests also, though it looks much different than what happens in our buildings on a Sunday morning. Read [Pastor Amy Yoder McGloughlin's \(Frazer Mennonite Church\) blog](#) from Mennonite Women USA.

**ECOLOGY TIP:** Could there be a more glorious time of year than spring? No matter how busy we are, often with many important things, let's not miss this magnificent colorful show nature is putting on! Go see the tulips blooming profusely on the Pearl Street Mall in downtown Boulder, drive into the mountains, or just walk down the street and marvel at the pink and white blooming trees!



*Donate to BMC*



**Boulder Mennonite Church**  
is a member congregation of Mountain States  
Mennonite Conference and Mennonite Church USA  
and in affiliation with the Church of the Brethren

3910 Table Mesa Drive, Boulder, CO 80305  
(303) 443-3889 • [www.bouldermennonite.org](http://www.bouldermennonite.org) • [churchadmin@bouldermennonite.org](mailto:churchadmin@bouldermennonite.org)