



Welcome to
Boulder Mennonite Church

Sunday, December 1, 2024

First Sunday in the Season of Advent

A Service of the Word



*Together
on the
Journey*

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

***Singing** O come, O come Emmanuel, vv. 1, 2 210

Advent Candle Lighting: The Candle of Hope

Leader: We journey together with God by our side. But the way is dim, and the shadows of fear, bigotry and hatred gather around us.

People: **We light a candle of Hope, joining hands in solidarity and in the love of Jesus.**

The Advent candle is lit...

Leader: God will raise up a righteous branch, who will bring justice and integrity to the land. We stand secure in the love of God!

All: *Our path may meander through rocky situations, but we will hold on to Hope as we journey together.*

Singing Hope is a candle, v. 1 211

Welcome

CELEBRATING & PRAISING

Singing How many times we start again, vv. 1, 2, 3 553

Confession and Assurance adapted from 1 Thessalonians 3.12-13

Leader: It is never easy for us to declare what ails us, Waiting God. There are the hurts we have caused to our families and friends, which we would like to forget. There are those who we believe are impossible to love, and so we don't try. There are people who live on the edge of our society, and we ignore their cries for help.

People: **Forgive us, God who comes near to us. When we have lost our way, lead us to Hope. May we be led in humility down the streets of your kingdom. May we learn the truth, so we may journey in your Way, revealed to us in Jesus the Anointed One. Amen.**

Silence

“Be on your guard lest your spirits become dulled with indulgence, drunkenness and worldly cares. That day will suddenly close in on you like a trap. It will come upon all who dwell on the face of the earth, so be on your watch. **Pray constantly for the strength to escape whatever comes, and to stand secure before the Chosen One.**”

Sermon

RESPONDING

Singing Far above the noise of life 625

Sharing Joys and Concerns
Prayers of the People

SENDING

Announcements

***Benediction**

***Sending Song** To us a Child of hope is born, vv. 1, 2 259



Resources used in worship:

Scripture adapted from The Inclusive Bible, Priests for Equality
Worship resources adapted from Leader, Fall 2024, MennoMedia

Thanks to all who contributed to our service today!

Speaker: Pastor Randy Spaulding
Worship Leader: Susan Graber
Readers: Frances & Mike Tice
Music: Bruce Fast, Elleanna Voran, Pastor Randy
Tech Support: The Tice Family
Greeters: Elvira Glenn, Laura Minter
Snacks: Jen Dudenhefer, Gus Gouvas

November 24: Attendance: 36 Offering: \$

Please Note: Offerings are falling significantly behind the annual budget in the past two months. Your regular donations and special gifts are gratefully received and important for the work of the congregation. *Thank you!*

TODAY at BMC

- 9:30am Worship
10:30am **Connecting Sunday:** extended snacks and connecting together. Here are some icebreakers to consider: *What do you like best about the holiday season? What are you waiting for in this season of Advent? What was a memorable Christmas for you?*
11:00am Youth meet in Rm 112

THIS WEEK at BMC

- 12/1 Advent Season begins
11/4 MSMC Pastors, 11am
12/4 Centering Prayer, 11am

NEXT SUNDAY – **December 8:** Second Sunday in the Season of Advent

- 9:30am Worship and mingling
11:00am Auction

COMING UP

- 12/10 Singing small group. 6:30
12/11 Deacon's meeting, 8:30a
12/12 Church council, 5p
12/13 Pastor Randy & Gary's Holiday Open House, 6p
12/14 Casa de Paz fundraiser, Posner Center
12/15 Heresy, Heretics, and (dis)Harmony, 4p
12/24 BMC Christmas Eve Soup Potluck, 5:30pm
Christmas Eve Carols and Candlelight, 6:30pm

~PRAYERS~

- ~of comfort, strength and peace for **Mai Wheeler** and her longtime friends **John** and **Camy** at the Boulder Chinese Evangelical Free Church. **John** died on Nov. 24, after a journey with cancer.
- ~from **Jeremiah Osborne-Gowey**: Continued prayers for friend **Doug Schnitzspahn** and family as they move through cancer. Prayers for **those affected** by and from yesterday's Civil Air Patrol airplane accident during training exercises.
- ~from [Community Peacemaker Teams](#): As we continue to grieve a year of genocide against the people of Gaza, we continue to resist. Around the world, millions of people have opposed Israel's attacks on Gaza and Lebanon by marching, advocating, and engaging in civil disobedience. While it can be easy to sink into despair as the violence continues, our actions are powerful. Please pray: For an end to killing in Gaza; For policy shifts in the Western countries

enabling Israeli attacks; For the dismantling of settler colonialism and the growth of global solidarity; For support, healing and courage for solidarity activists; For wisdom and courage to act in solidarity as you can. [Read more here.](#)

December Birthdays	December Anniversaries
2 – Karl Ortman 10 – Cindi Fausel 15 – Carol Grasse 16 – Kent Olson 18 – Bennet Mathis	6 – Felipe Diaz Hormigo & Toni Diaz Bachus 31 – Jonathan & Debra Falk

~ANNOUNCEMENTS~

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

DEACONS: Paul Classen: 316-217-2355; Cheri Krause: 510-227-9712; Toni Diaz Bachus: 303-579-4290

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~

GOD IS GOOD! OUR AUCTION TOTAL from last Sunday is \$10,186! Thank you to all who bid high and contributed to the ongoing ministry of BMC to this community and beyond!

OSTRICH EGG AUCTION ITEM: The beautiful Ostrich Egg artwork, painted by Joan Tice, is still up for bid, as there was some confusion from last Sunday's auction. [Click here for a link to see it.](#) Starting bid is \$125. If interested, see Bruce Fast.

REPARING FOR ADVENT: The season of Advent is upon us. It's the time of preparing hearts, minds and bodies for the coming of God's Anointed One, for the arrival of God! This year, you are invited to wonder: *What does Advent mean to me? What does it mean to wait – sometimes in the shadows—for the arrival of Hope, Peace, Love or Joy?* See Pastor Randy if you would like to share a story during the Advent season. Thanks!



~ IN THE LARGER COMMUNITY ~

DO YOU KNOW ABOUT RAWTOOLS? [RAWTools](https://rawtools.org/) loves turning guns into garden tools and other lovely things. It helps us realize the alternative tools available to us for conflict resolution, mediation, and dialogue. Their mission is to "Disarm Hearts and Forge Peace" through our program services: Swords to Plows; War No More; and Vine and Fig. Together, we have the tools to cultivate love and justice. Visit their website to learn more and get involved!
<https://rawtools.org/>

ROCKY MOUNTAIN MENNONITE CAMP: Come to enjoy the beauty and chill of RMMC in the winter once again. Come play in the snow and on the ice and then be ready to come inside for good food, fellowship and worship together. Visit the camp web page (www.rmmc.org) for additional snow camp details and to register that you're headed to the Colorado Rockies to start the new year! **Young Adult Snow Camp (Feb. 14-16)** Young Adult Snow Camp continues to join the Jr. and Sr. High Snow Camp activities and fellowship with participants serving as program assistants AND participants at just the right young adult price. . . free! **Scrapbook Retreat, (Jan. 31-Feb. 2)** is your opportunity to create paper or digital photo books and share ideas and good conversation with other scrapbook participants. Lisa Longacher will return as our program resource for the retreat and help facilitate a variety of activities. Please come for retreat and community in God's creation here at Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp. Register online (www.rmmc.org) and save a space to join in.

MENNONITE CHURCH USA:

Anabaptism at 500! This January, the magazine, *Anabaptist World*, will celebrate the 500th anniversary of Anabaptism with a **special commemorative issue of the magazine** highlighting the history of our movement. Special features in the January 2025 issues will include *How Anabaptism Began*, and how Anabaptism set the foundations for **democracy and the free-**

church movement! Testimonies, a world map of where we are, and more! *BMC has pre-ordered 15 copies.* Let Pastor Randy or Ivanna know if you would like to purchase one. The cost is \$8.00.

Preparing the way: Reflecting on Advent and the light we bring: Hendy Matahelemual encourages people to think of Advent as a time to shine their light, as a way to welcome Jesus and the unchurched. Hendy attended Eastern Mennonite Seminary and serves with Mosaic Mennonite Conference through his role as associate pastor at Philadelphia (Pennsylvania) Praise Center.

Join the Global Anabaptist Bible Read-a-thon! This is your opportunity to take part in a once-every-500-year moment of unity and faith! MennoMedia’s Anabaptism at 500 is collaborating with Mennonite World Conference in this extraordinary event as 500 voices will join together to read through the entire Bible – from Genesis to Revelation – in multiple languages. [Register here](#).

MennoMedia: *Comfort & Joy, Readings and Practices for Advent* by Sherah-Leigh Gerber and Gwen Lantz | This devotional offers a unique blend of thoughtful reflections and inspiring spiritual practices grounded in noticing the sacred amid the ordinary. | Purchase it [here](#).

ECOLOGY TIP: Now is a good time to donate to MCC, EPIC, or Heifer, choosing specific gifts for friends and family members that will feed, house, educate, promote sustainable farming, or bring peace to people who are in need. Try to match the gift to your “recipient”: For example, for a music teacher family member, donate for youth music lessons. Some grandparents even let their grandchildren choose what will be given in their name. Not only are these gifts life-sustaining, they require no packaging or shipping, thus being very ecological!



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

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