



Welcome to Boulder Mennonite Church

Sunday, December 29, 2024

Fourth Sunday in the Season of Advent

A Service of the Word



"Guatemalan Nativity" by Fr. John Giuliani

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 *Shepherds Rejoice* R. Powell
***Singing** To us a Child of hope is born 259

Call to Worship adapted from Isaiah 9

Leader: We who lived in the shadows have seen a great light!

People: **Light from the heavens embraces creation, like a mother's arms holding a newborn baby.**

Leader: Sun, moon and stars proclaim God's love.

People: **Our hearts give thanks, our spirits sing and our hands rejoice!**

Leader: The Winter Solstice is gone—light returns to the earth.

People: **A Child is born to us—the Light of the World has come.**

All: *Let us celebrate the richness and diversity of new life in the spirit of God's love!*

Welcome

CELEBRATING & PRAISING

Singing Angels, from the realms of glory 265

Centering Prayer

Singing Still, still, still 264

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 *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* arr. Held

HEARING

Hebrew Scripture Reading

Micah 6.1-8

Hear now what the Eternal One says: “Come, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice! Listen to the Eternal One’s indictment, you mountains and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the Eternal One has a dispute with the people, and is putting Israel on trial.

O my people, what have I done to you? How have I wearied you? Give me an answer! For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery; and I sent Moses to lead you, and Aaron, and Miriam! My people, call to mind the plans devised by the ruler Balak of Moab, and how Balaam ben-Beor answered him! Remember the journey from Shittim to Gilgal, and recall how the Eternal One brought you justice!”

“What shall I bring when I come before the Eternal One, and bow down before God on high?” you ask. **“Am I to come before God with burnt offerings? With year-old calves? Will the Eternal One be placated by thousands of rams or ten thousand rivers of oil?** Should I offer my firstborn for my wrongdoings—the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

Listen here, mortal: God has already made abundantly clear what “good” is, and what the Eternal One needs from you: simply do justice, love kindness, and humbly walk with your God.

New Testament Reading

Colossians 3.12-17

Because you are God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with heartfelt compassion, with kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive whatever grievances you have against one another—forgive in the same way God has forgiven you. Above all else, put on love, which binds the rest together and makes them perfect.

Let the Anointed One’s peace reign in your hearts since, as members of one body, you have been called to that peace. Dedicate yourselves to thankfulness. Let the Word of the Anointed, rich as it is, dwell in you. Instruct and admonish one another wisely. Sing gratefully to God from your hearts in psalms, hymns and songs of the Spirit. And whatever you do, whether in speech or in action, do it in the name of Jesus our Savior, giving thanks to God through the Anointed One.

Singing

Renew your church, vv. 1, 4

717

Now Testament Reading

Margaret Wheatley, *Turning to One Another*

There is no power greater than a community discovering what it cares about.

Ask "What's possible?" not "What's wrong?" Keep asking. Notice what you care about. Assume that many others share your dreams. Be brave enough to start a conversation that matters.

Talk to people you know. Talk to people you don't know. Talk to people you never talk to. Be intrigued by the differences you hear. Expect to be surprised. Treasure curiosity more than certainty.

Invite in everybody who cares to work on what's possible. Acknowledge that everyone is an expert about something. Know that creative solutions come from new connections. Remember, you don't fear people whose story you know.

Real listening always brings people closer together. Trust that meaningful conversations can change your world. Rely on human goodness. Stay together.

Reflection

Clothe Yourselves in Love

RESPONDING

Singing

Love has come

258

Sharing Joys and Concerns Prayers of the People

SENDING

Announcements

*Benediction

*Sending Song

Blest be the tie that binds, vv. 1, 4

831

Resources used in worship:

Scripture adapted from The Inclusive Bible, Priests for Equality

Cover art: [Nativity – THE ART OF JOHN B. GIULIANI](#)

Margaret Wheatley, [Margaret J. Wheatley: Turning to One Another](#)



About our Guest Speaker: Rev. Lydia Ferrante-Roseberry is a Unitarian Universalist minister who is passionate about the individual and community transformation that is possible when people come together to create something none could have imagined alone. For 25 years, she served congregations in California and Colorado, most recently, the Boulder Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Lafayette. Rev. Lydia is currently a community organizer with [Together Colorado](#), a congregational consultant for [Stewardship for Us](#) and a founding collaborator for [Interplay Colorado](#). She and her husband, Phil, have two young adult children, and live in Louisville. Rev. Lydia enjoys many practices that keep her aligned with the mystical power of Love, including regular connection with nature, Qigong, social activism, and dancing with the [Interplay](#) community. She enjoys cooking, hiking, engaging conversation, playing cards and painting rocks. *Welcome, Rev. Lydia, and blessings as you share among us today!*

Thanks to all who contributed to our service today!

Guest Speaker:	Rev. Lydia Ferrante-Roseberry
Worship Leader:	Susan Graber
Readers:	Sandi Sanborn, Becky Neumann
Music:	Jean McPherson, Susan Graber
Tech Support:	Steve Voran
Greeters:	Karl Ortman, Becky Neumann
Snacks:	Scott Woods, Gus Gouvas

December 22:

Attendance: 40

Offering: \$ N/A

TODAY at BMC

9:30a	Worship and mingling
11:00a	No Education Hour – holiday schedule

THIS WEEK at BMC

1/1/25	New Year's Day 2025 500 th Anniversary of the Anabaptist Movement begins!
1/1	Centering Prayer, 11am

NEXT SUNDAY – January 5: Second Sunday in the Season of Christmastide

9:30am	Worship and mingling
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Speaker:	Pastor Randy Spaulding
Worship Leader:	Sandi Sanborn
Readers:	Joan & Ezra Tice
Music:	Elleanna Voran, Bruce Fast
Tech Support:	The Tice Family
Greeters:	Elvira Glenn, Karl Ortman
Snacks:	Jen Dudenhefer, Gus Gouvas

COMING UP

1/6	Epiphany
1/9	PCRC, 9am
1/9	Church Council, 5pm
1/14	Singing Group, 6:30pm
1/15	Centering Prayer small group, 11am
1/17	MSMC Road Trip to Roca de Refugio in TX
1/20	Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
1/24-26	Jr. High Snow Camp at RMMC
2/14-16	Sr. High Snow Camp at RMMC

~PRAYERS~

- ~for **peace and truth to prevail** in 2025. For God's people to rise up and practice compassion, mercy and lovingkindness as we journey with marginalized and oppressed people everywhere.
- ~for safety for **all those travelling** over the holidays.
- ~for aid and relief to come to the people of **Gaza, Syria, Somalia, the Sudan** and every place where people are hurting and victims of violence.
- ~While Christians celebrate Christmas, we also remember our **Jewish siblings** who will soon be celebrating Hannukah. We especially lift up the attack on the Beth Tikvah Shul in **Montreal, Quebec, Canada**, that was caused by an incendiary device damaging their windows and front doors—the second time this year that their community has been the target of hate crimes.
- ~of gratitude to **all who donated warm socks at Pastor Randy and Gary's Open House**. You donated 160 pairs of socks to [All Roads-Boulder Homeless Shelter](#). Socks are the number one requested item from folks who journey with All Roads. *Thank you! ~Pastor Randy*

January Birthdays

1 – Justin Mathis	15 – Gary Stephens
4 – Ellen Morrison	24 – Mary McKay
6 – Berit Jany	30 – Lyn Krause
9 – Elleanna Voran	

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) 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: 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~

THE FAMILY IN CRISIS FUND was established about 20 years ago through this church to help the people of South Africa. While we were there, we used the funds to help with medications that people needed, school fees, food for families and support the love of Christ children's home. This home takes in abandoned babies and tries to reunite with family

members, adoption in South Africa or International adoption (rare). TLC has now expanded their role into not only taking in abandoned babies/children but working with mothers so they can keep their babies. This is done through trauma therapy, teaching them skills to raise children and skills for employment. Some of the mothers live on location to learn and grow for up to 3 years. Others are from the local community in nearby townships. TLC also has a feeding scheme and also hires local people from the township to help care for the babies (vetted by child social services), growing a large vegetable garden, chickens and maintenance. Their electricity is about 85% solar. Please consider giving to the Family in Crisis fund through the BMC website or write a check to BMC with family in crisis in the memo. *Thank you! ~The Firnhabers*

THE ANABAPTIST COMMUNITY BIBLE is here! Many years in the making, this bible was produced with reflections, commentary and theological wisdom in an Anabaptist perspective. Boulder Mennonite Church participated in providing commentary and reflections, which are included in this little treasure to commemorate the 500th Anniversary of Anabaptism in 2025. Take a look at it after worship – a copy will be at the back of the sanctuary. If you wish to order your own copy, see Pastor Randy

CHURCH ADMIN HELP NEEDED. Our BMC administrator, Ivanna Johnson, is taking some time off in early 2025 (Jan – March). So, we are looking for some BMCers who may be able to spend time in the office or remotely to do some admin work, working on parts of the Sunday bulletin, checking emails, working with the worship schedule, managing building rentals, greeting folks who come to the door during the week, etc. If you are interested, please see Pastor Randy. Thank you!

ALL ROADS: [The Boulder Shelter for the Homeless](#) sends thanks for the support they have received from our congregation. As of July, it was rebranded as "All Roads", emphasizing their program's focus on housing issues and not just on the shelter.

THANKS TO OUR VISUAL TASK FORCE for preparing our church for the season of Christmastide and Epiphany: Elleanna Voran, Gwen Grasse, Sandi Sanborn, Becky Neumann, Susan Graber, and Pastor Randy.

DEEP GRATITUDE for those who helped in our Christmas Eve service: musicians, readers, worship leaders, greeters, and tech. And thanks to **Elvira Glenn** and all who helped set up, prepare and clean up for our Soup Potluck!

~ IN THE LARGER COMMUNITY ~

ROCKY MOUNTAIN MENNONITE CAMP: January 24-26, 2025 Plan now to attend the Scrapbook Retreat. This weekend is a great time to work on preserving photos and placing them in books to keep the memories alive. Participants work on their own projects during the weekend, creating paper or digital photo books. The scrapbook room gives each participant access to half of a 5 foot round table. There is also a table of free supplies and a shared tools space (paper

cutters, paper punches, etc). Games and activities throughout the weekend showcase people's creative works and inspire others with new ideas. Register at [Scrapbook Retreat | Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp](#)

MENNONITE CHURCH USA:

Save the Date for Follow Jesus 25! See you July 8-12, 2025 in North Carolina for this year's MennoCon25. Watch the video [here](#).

Menno Snapshots: While reflecting on her job description as the conference minister for Mountain States Mennonite Conference, Amy Zimbelman came up with a song about some of her favorite things to answer the question "So what do you ... do?" Read more [here](#).

Lynette McIntosh-Madrigal, a member of Mennonite Church USA's Women in Leadership Steering Committee, shares how she has experienced conflict transformation among inner-city youth in Fresno, California. Read more [here](#).

ECOLOGY TIP: "It's the most wonderful time of the year", but not for the earth. It is estimated that Americans generate nearly 3,000,000,000 pounds of trash over the holidays. Here are a couple things you can do to reduce that waste: *If you received a gift you cannot use, consider giving it to someone else or to charity. Of the nearly 9 million packages returned, many are shipped to the landfill. *Save ribbon and wrapping paper to reuse. If each American saved 2 feet of ribbon, it would make a bow all the way around the earth. *Look for a nearby place to recycle white block foam, used in packaging. Ecocycle CHaRM in Boulder is one such facility.



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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