



# Welcome to Boulder Mennonite Church

Sunday, March 23, 2025

*Third Sunday in the Season of Lent: Return to Love's Way*

## A Service of the Word



*1960 Nashville Civil Rights Protest against the unjust expulsion of James Lawson from Vanderbilt University for providing workshops on non-violence and his participation in the sit-in movement.*

**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 [online](#)**

### ***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** *Blessed Ye Who Live in Faith Unswerving* Brahms  
**\*Singing** All who are thirsty 49

### Call to Worship

Leader: Together we seek the Way of Love.

**People: We come to the fountain to dip our hearts in the stream of life.**

Leader: Come, receive the abundant gifts of God, without money and without price.

**People: In our gathering, may we be washed afresh in the waves of God's mercy.**

Leader: Deep cries out to deep:

**All: *Spirit of Love and Light, come! Let us worship God!***

Welcome

## CELEBRATING & PRAISING

**Singing** Sing praise to God who reigns, vv. 1, 3, 4 101

**Confessing and Centering Prayer** adapted from Isaiah 55

Leader: Holy One, we seek you while you may be found.

**People: We call upon you while you are near.**

Leader: Have mercy on us, O God, for our thoughts are not your thoughts and our ways are not your ways.

**People: Forgive us for acting as if we must earn your love. Open us to receiving love as a gift.**

Leader: As we walk the way of Jesus on this Lenten journey,

**All: *let us return to Love's Way and follow the path with integrity and trust.***

*Silence*

**Singing** The love of God, vv. 1, 3 162

**Passing the Peace**

**Offering Invitation/Blessing**

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

## Offertory

### HEARING

#### A Moment for All Ages

##### Hebrew Scripture Reading

from Isaiah 55.1-9

All you who are thirsty, come to the water! You who have no money, come, buy food and eat! Come, buy wine and milk, without money, without price! Why spend your money for what is not bread, your wages for what fails to satisfy? Heed me, and you will eat well, you will delight in rich fare; bend your ear and come to me, listen, that you may have life: I will make an everlasting Covenant with you— in fulfillment of the blessings promised to David.

Seek me, the Eternal One, while I may still be found, call upon me while I am near! Let the corrupt abandon their ways, the evil their thoughts. Let them return to the Eternal One, and I will have mercy on them; return to God, for I will freely pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways, my ways,” says the Eternal One. “As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are my ways above your ways and my thoughts above your thoughts.

##### Gospel Reading

Luke 13.1-9

When Jesus was preaching, there were people present who told Jesus about some Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their own sacrifices.

Jesus replied, “Do you think these Galileans were the greatest sinners in Galilee just because they suffered this? **Not at all! I tell you, you’ll all come to the same end unless you change your ways.** Or take those eighteen who were killed by a falling tower in Siloam. Do you think they were more guilty than anyone else who has lived in Jerusalem? **Certainly not! I tell you, you’ll all come to the same end unless you change your ways.**”

Jesus told this parable: “There was a fig tree growing in a vineyard. The owner came out looking for fruit on it, but didn’t find any. The owner said to the vine dresser, ‘Look here! For three years now I’ve come out in search of fruit on this fig tree and have found none. Cut it down. Why should it clutter up the ground?’

“In reply, the vine dresser said, **‘Please leave it one more year while I hoe around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year, fine; if not, then let it be cut down.’**”

##### Singing

There’s a wideness in God’s mercy, vv. 1, 3, 4

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##### Anabaptist Reading

*On Repentance*, Rev. Isaac Villegas



## TODAY at BMC

9:30a      Worship and mingling  
11:00a      Education Hour: joint adult/youth meet in the sanctuary

## THIS WEEK at BMC

Tues, 3/25   Singing small group, 6:30p  
Wed. 3/26   Meditation/Centering Prayer small group, 11:00a  
Sat, 3/29    Justin Mathis Clarinet Recital at BMC, 7:00p—see announcement

## NEXT SUNDAY – March 30, 2025: Fourth Sunday in the Season of Lent – Faith Sharing

9:30am      Worship and mingling  
11:00am      Education Hour

**Speaker:**           Cheri Krause  
**Worship Leader:**   Toni Diaz Bachus  
**Readers:**           Lisa Voss, Joanna Harrison  
**Music:**             Randy Spaulding, Susan Graber  
**Moment for All**     Cheri Krause  
**Tech Support:**     Alfred Sawatzky  
**Greeters:**         Karl Ortman, Mai Wheeler, Sheng Wheeler  
**Snacks:**            Susan Graber, Gus Gouvas

## COMING UP

4/17      Maundy Thursday Footwashing and Meal at BMC, 6p  
4/20      Easter Sunday, 9:30am Brunch; 10:30am Worship; 11:45a Easter Egg Hunt  
4/23      Heretics, Heresy, (dis)Harmony small group, Broomfield, 4:00p  
4/26      Church workday, 8:00a - noon  
5/4        Inter-Mennonite Hymn Sing, Glennon Heights Mennonite, 1:15p  
5/25      John Paul Lederach speaking at Beth El Mennonite, Colorado Springs,  
7/8-12     MennoCon25: Follow Jesus, Greensboro, NC  
7/20      BMC Annual Meeting – all invited to attend, following worship (note this is also  
            Holy Humor Sunday!)  
8/1-3     Mountain States Mennonite Conference Assembly, Colorado Mountain College,  
            Glennwood Spgs

## ~PRAYERS~

~for **Demi Ryan** and her family to get justice in all their business/finance and court cases.  
~for the **US Institue of Peace**, which was placed on a lockdown while DOGE tried to enter the building on Friday, March 14. Brave individuals stood up and refused DOGE's unlawful entry. Call your representatives and ask what they are doing to uphold their oaths to the constitution.

- ~for **Paul and Mary McKay's** friend **Haidi's** continued healing in Guatemala; her doctor said she narrowly escaped death 2 times.
- ~ Lord, we pray that **Your peace, which surpasses all understanding, will reign** in the DRC, Ukraine, Myanmar, Venezuela and all regions under conflict on this earth. Let hearts be comforted, fears be cast away, and reconciliation take root. Amen. —Shadreck Kwendanyama, Mennonite Brethren Church in Malawi, ICOMB from [Mennonite World Conference prayers](#)
- ~for **Jeanette Vizguerra**, a Colorado community leader and mother, who has led the fight against her own deportation since 2009. On Monday March 17, ICE acted without a valid deportation order and without notifying Ms. Vizguerra or her lawyers. She was suddenly taken into ICE custody and placed at the GEO Group for-profit detention facility. ICE appears to be readying to possibly deport her even though the agency knows they don't have a valid deportation order. Her attorneys have raised serious legal errors and are concerned her due process rights are being violated. (More information about how to support Jeanette is in the announcements)
- ~for the people of Gaza, as Israel has resumed its campaign of violence.

<b>March Birthdays</b>	
1 – Gus Dino Gouvas 2 – Nancy Wolff 4 – Laura Minter 7 – Ryan Loewer 13 – Marit	16 – Nevin McKay Epp 23 – Cindy Firnhaber 27 – Becky Sawatzky 27 – Joshua Tice 30 – Koketso Firnhaber
<b><i>Please let us know if we failed to acknowledge your special day. We want to celebrate you!</i></b>	

## ~ANNOUNCEMENTS~

*Please call in or email ([info@bouldermennonite.org](mailto: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:** No office hours at this time. Please call the church office or email [churchadmin@bouldermennonite.org](mailto:churchadmin@bouldermennonite.org) for inquiries and to leave messages.

## ~ IN OUR COMMUNITY ~

**BOULDER MENNONITES GATHER ON THE CAPITOL STEPS!** Please join us on **Thursday, March 27th** for a service of word and song at the State Capitol (200 E. Colfax Ave.

Denver). Meet at **11:45am** on the West Steps. Bring any **signs** and **banners** that support the theme of ***God's Love Knows No Borders***. Bring **Voices Together** (some song sheets will be provided). At noon we will process into the Rotunda for singing and brief spoken messages. Weather permitting, we may gather outside afterward for additional visibility. We need a photographer and persons who can assist keeping the group together. Please contact Christie Burton ([ckburton44@gmail.com](mailto:ckburton44@gmail.com)) or Jeni Hiatt Umble ([jeni.umble@gmail.com](mailto:jeni.umble@gmail.com)) if you can assist. RSVPs appreciated. Pastor Randy will lead singing. Interested in carpooling?

**RECITAL THIS SATURDAY, 3/29!** From Justin Mathis: I'd love for you to attend my clarinet recital, **Saturday, 3/29, 7p at Boulder Mennonite**. We will perform original works and transcriptions in the style of Spanish and Latin American music. If you can't come in person, it will also be broadcast on Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/283224109> This is a free performance featuring collaborative pianist Randy Spaulding, and a clarinet quartet. Donations are appreciated but not necessary to attend.



**CHURCH WORK DAY:** Saturday, April 26, 8am - Noon. Come to help with washing windows on east side of sanctuary after removing screens, picking up rocks from backyard and carrying them to the fence, tilling the area where grass will be sown, building plant beds, and installing a drip system for trees. These are just some of the areas where your help is needed!

## ~ ACROSS THE ANABAPTIST COMMUNITY ~

**MOUNTAIN STATES MENNONITE CONFERENCE (MSMC):** [March "Zing!" Newsletter](#); also an excellent letter, [Stubborn Ounces: A Letter About Faith and Politics](#), from our Conference Minister, Amy Zimbleman. Zing includes an announcement about the Beth-El (our sister congregation in Colorado Springs) speaker series this summer, **Cultivating Peace**. See more on their [Facebook page](#). (Note John Paul Lederach speech on 5/25 has been cancelled.)

**TRUTH AND REPAIR PILGRIMAGE** at Sand Creek Massacre Site, May 23-24. The pilgrimage is a combined effort of Sarah Augustine of the [Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery](#), and other groups. Registration deadline 3/31, online orientation 4/24. [Learn more here](#). Cost: \$675 per person, all inclusive.

**MENNONITE WOMEN USA:** ~Ponder, Affirm, Question & Celebrate~ [March "Grapevine"](#) March is Women's History Month: a time to celebrate and center the ways women shape our world. MW USA honors and elevates women's stories year-round, because women have a vital prophetic voice. This month, we accelerate our gaze, because women's history is too often missing from mainstream historical records and narratives.

### **MCUSA WEBINARS:**

- **Forgive and Forget? Forgiveness and Addressing Church Abuse**, 3/24, 6:00p Mountain. Join host Nancy Kauffmann, interim denominational minister of Church Safety, and Michael Danner, associate executive director for Church Vitality, as they discuss the common understanding of the

role of forgiveness in responding to abuse in the church and how it is often misused or misunderstood in the context of abuse. Intérprete al español disponible. Info and registration [here](#).

- Watch the recording of webinar, “**Following Jesus in challenging times... What does it mean to provide sanctuary for undocumented people?**” in [English](#) or en [español](#).

**MENNOCON 2025!** Read the latest issue of the Convention Newsletter [here](#)! *Less than two weeks left to enjoy early bird pricing* for MC USA’s **Follow Jesus ’25 convention** in Greensboro, North Carolina, July 8-12. Special Women’s Summit on July 8, **Beholding it Together--A Sacred Space to Rest, Reclaim and Resist** Register [here](#) before March 31 and save \$145 per person.

**MENNONITE DISASTER SERVICE:** Our March edition of [On the Level](#) is now available. In this edition, mourning the passing of Lowell Detweiler, an update on the MDS response to the LA Wildfires, and volunteers build a fire resilient home in British Columbia.

**HERALD PRESS:** Flash [sale on paperbacks](#), 40 % - 60% off! Use code WEEKLY at checkout, through March 23.

## ~ IN THE LARGER COMMUNITY ~

**SUPPORT JEANETTE DETAINED BY ICE:** Jeanette Vizguerra was taken by Immigration and Customs Enforcement on March 17. There was an all-night vigil for her and here are 2 actions you can take: 1. [Please sign and share the petition to free Jeanette](#). 2. The family have started a [gofundme Fundraiser](#) by Tania Tabullo Baez: “Help reunite my family to cover the legal and other costs.” Please contribute as able and share!

**US CAPITOL RALLY:** The Collective of Queer Christian Leaders is gathering on April 14th at 10:00am ET for a Rally at the U.S. Capitol. More info [here](#).

**ECOLOGY TIP:** As many of us head out on spring break trips or other excursions, why not start an “Appreciation Fund”? As we spend money to travel and explore God’s great creation of nature, might we put aside a similar amount to donate to organizations which help preserve these lands?



*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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