



Welcome to Boulder Mennonite Church

Sunday, March 30, 2025

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



"Love your Enemies", Sermon on the Mount, art by Laura James, 2010

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

***Singing** Let us build a house, vv. 1, 3, 4 36

Call to Worship adapted from Matthew 5.43-48

Leader: Jesus calls us to love not only our neighbors but also those we struggle to understand.

People: We come, open to seeing the humanity in those we disagree with.

Leader: God's love is not reserved for a few but poured out on all people.

People: We seek to reflect that love in our words, our actions, and our hearts.

Leader: When we practice mercy, we live out the way of Jesus.

All: *We come to worship, to grow in love, and to walk in the fullness of God's grace.*

Welcome

CELEBRATING & PRAISING

Singing O worship our God 74

Confessing and Centering Prayer from Psalm 32

Leader: Blessed are those whose wrongdoings are forgiven, whose shame has been forgotten..

People: We turn to you, O God, in honesty and humility.

Leader: When we become overwhelmed by fear, our bones grow weak, and our strength dries up.

People: Help us acknowledge our shortcomings, O God, and to admit what separates us from Love's Way.

Leader: You are our hiding place; you surround us with songs of deliverance.

People: Teach us your way, O God, and remind us we don't walk alone.

Leader: Be glad in Love's Way and rejoice, O people!

All: *We return to Love's steadfast Way and rejoice in Love's mercy.*

Silence

Singing Hold On 612

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

HEARING

A Moment for All Ages

New Testament Reading

from Ephesians 4

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, the Anointed One.

So I declare and testify together with the Anointed that you must stop living the kind of life the world lives. Their minds are empty, they have no understanding, they are alienated from the life of God—all because they have hardened their hearts

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as God has forgiven you in the Anointed One.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 5.43-48

Jesus said, “You’re familiar with the old written law, ‘Love your friend,’ and its unwritten companion, ‘Hate your enemy.’ **I’m challenging that. I’m telling you to love your enemies. Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst. When someone gives you a hard time, respond with the supple moves of prayer, for then you are working out of your true selves, your God-created selves.** This is what God does. God gives the best—the sun to warm and the rain to nourish—to everyone, regardless: the good and bad, the nice and nasty. If all you do is love the lovable, do you expect a bonus? Anybody can do that. If you simply say hello to those who greet you, do you expect a medal? Any run-of-the-mill human does that.

“In a word, what I’m saying is, Grow up. You’re part of God’s kindom – now live like it. Live out your God-created identity. Live generously and graciously toward others, the way God lives toward you.”

Singing

There is in every person

751

Now Testament Reading

Yvette Erasmus, *How to Transform Enemy Images*

Enemy images are fixed, rigid ideas we have about others. Anytime we think about “those people” as narcissistic, privileged, toxic, American, or a long list of other identity labels, we run the risk of reducing their essential humanity into a static enemy image.

These labels are grounded in a deep negative judgment we hold about a person or group or people, and these fear-based judgments also block our ability to empathize with or connect to them as another human being. As we subtly dehumanize others, turning them into an object rather than a subject through our language and labels, we also find it easier to be unkind, judgmental, violent or harmful to them because – unconsciously – we either want to get rid of them or break through to them, and believe that force and hurt are the best tools for this.

Dehumanization is one of the primary instruments of both psychological and physical violence. We turn people into objects so that we feel free to harm, coerce, and exploit them for selfish purposes.

Reflection

Humanizing for the Sake of our Values

RESPONDING

Singing

Spirit, open my heart

636

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

Singing

For those with whom our lives are bound

734

SENDING

Announcements

*Benediction

*Sending Song

The peace of the earth be with you

838

Resources used in worship:

Scripture adapted from The Inclusive Bible (Priests for Equality), The Message (E. Peterson), and *Psalms for Praying* (Nan Merrill)

Now Testament: Copyright © 2025 YVETTE ERASMUS LLC

Cover art: [Book of Gospels – Laura James Fine Arts](#)

Dr. Yvette Erasmus: [How To Transform Enemy Images - Dr. Yvette Erasmus](#)



About our Guest Speaker: Cheri Krause lives in Arvada with her husband, Justin Mathis, and half time with the kids: Bennett and Miles. Cheri loves working with clients virtually as a mental health therapist. They also like playing with color using beads or paint and otherwise creating beauty. Cheri identifies as an adult Third Culture Kid (TCK) from growing up overseas; they lived in India for over 10 years. *Thank you for sharing with us today, Cheri!*

Thanks to all who contributed to our service today!

- Speaker:** Cheri Krause
- Worship Leader:** Toni Diaz Bachus
- Readers:** Frances & Mike Tice
- Music:** Randy Spaulding, Susan Graber
- Tech Support:** Alfred Sawatzky
- Greeters:** Karl Ortman, Mai Wheeler, Sheng Wheeler
- Snacks:** Susan Graber, Gus Gouvas
- Moment for All Ages:** Cheri Krause

March 23, 2025: Attendance: 46 Offering: \$4,770

Please Note: Offerings are falling significantly behind the annual budget (c. \$10,000). Your regular donations and special gifts are gratefully received and important for the vital work and mission of the congregation. *Thank you!*

TODAY at BMC

- 9:30a Worship and mingling
- 11:00a Education Hour, joint adult/youth. Meet in the sanctuary

NEXT SUNDAY – April 6, 2025: Fifth Sunday in the Season of Lent

- 9:30am Worship and mingling
- 11:00am Connecting Sunday – extended conversations and building community

- Speaker:** Pastor Randy Spaulding
- Worship Leader:** Toni Diaz Bachus
- Readers:** Joan & Ezra Tice
- Music:** Elleanna Voran, Bruce Fast
- Tech Support:** Tice Family
- Greeters:** Elvira Glenn Laura Minter
- Snacks:** Elvira Glenn, Gus Gouvas

COMING UP

- 4/8 Singing small group, 6:30p
- 4/9 Meditation/Centering Prayer small group, 11:00a
- 4/10 Church Council, 5:00p
- 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
- 4/22 Singing small group, 6:30
- 4/23 Meditation/Centering Prayer small group, 11:00a
- 4/26 Church workday, 8:00a – noon
- 4/27 Heretics, Heresy, (dis)Harmony small group, Broomfield, 4:00p
- 5/4 Inter-Mennonite Hymn Sing, Glennon Heights Mennonite, 1:15p
- 5/7-10 Constituency Leaders Council of MC USA – Wichita, KS
- 7/8-12 MennoCon25: Follow Jesus, Greensboro, NC
- 7/20 Holy Humor Sunday
- 7/20 BMC Annual Meeting – all invited to attend, following worship
- 8/1-3 Mountain States Mennonite Conference Assembly, Colorado Mountain College, Glennwood Spgs

~PRAYERS~

- ~for **Toni and her husband**. He, along with half a million other Cuban, Haitian, Venezuelan, and Nicaraguan immigrants, has lost his legal status to be in the US. He must leave the US by 4/24, unless his status can be changed. Prayers for all people affected by the daily upheaval to our society. Also prayers for peace and direction: 68 years ago, Toni’s dad dug the foundation to our family home—the day I was born. My husband and I still live in our family house, part of my mom’s estate. It is now under contract and the closing may be fast-tracked. We had planned on purchasing a house together, but with all the unknowns, I may be moving alone to a rental.
- ~for **Carter McKay-Epp** who lost his job due to not having federal funding.
- ~for the **families impacted by the shooting at King Soopers** on March 22, 2021 and their continued healing.
- ~for the family and friends of **Hossam Shabat**, a steadfast journalist, who Israel assassinated. He was targeted and murdered by an airstrike which hit his car in the eastern part of Beit Lahiya, northern Gaza. Shabat was a highly dedicated journalist at only 23 years old, who continued his work despite being targeted and injured in an earlier attack by Israeli occupation forces in 2024. He remained in northern Gaza throughout the heightened siege and perilous invasion and attacks by Israeli forces, which sought to drive out all of its residents. He was one of the few journalists, alongside Anas Al-Sharif, who remained in the north throughout the genocide war.
- ~for **Pastor Bob Bates** is in the intensive care unit in Lafayette, Colorado. A call for prayers from the Western Plains District of the Brethren Church as he recovers.

April Birthdays	
9 Becky McKay Epp	26 Joan Tice
24 Barry Janzen	28 Becky Neumann
27 Matt Spiller	30 Bruce Fast

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: 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 for inquiries and to leave messages.

~ IN OUR COMMUNITY ~

FOOD DONATION: BMC delivered 40 pounds of food to Harvest of Hope recently. Thank you for your generosity! Continue to fill the blue tub at the back of our sanctuary with [these items](#). A big thanks to Cornelia Krahn and Kent Olson for delivering our donations to HoH!

CHURCH WORKDAY: Saturday, April 26, 8am - Noon. It feels great to work together (and there will be doughnuts!), so come to help with various projects around our building and grounds. Let's be great stewards of our wonderful home.

MAUNDY THURSDAY COMMUNION AND FOOT WASHING, April 17, 6pm: Singing, a simple meal, communion, foot washing and scripture readings. Please **sign up at the back of the sanctuary today if you plan to attend this special service of Holy Week.**



EASTER FLOWERS ORDERS: Boulder Mennonite Church is taking orders for Easter flowers to be displayed at our Easter Service. You may then take them home after the service. An "in honor of" list will be printed for the service. A sign-up sheet is located on the table by the door. Price for each plant will range from \$15-30.



~ ACROSS THE ANABAPTIST COMMUNITY ~

PRAY VIGIL AND HEARING: Join MC USA for an **interfaith prayer vigil** on the eve of our historic lawsuit against DHS's rescission of the sensitive locations memo on Thu, April 3, 6:30pm in DC, or attend via livestream. Stand with us in faith and solidarity. You can also **listen to the hearing** by phone at 8am on April 4. [Registration and info](#).

MENNONITE CHURCH USA (MC USA): Early bird pricing expires 3/31! So register now for MC USA's Follow Jesus '25 biennial convention in Greensboro, North Carolina, July 8-12! Lots of info [here!](#) Interested in going and serving as BMC's delegate? See Pastor Randy.

MC USA'S CLIMATE JUSTICE MINISTRY has begun accepting applications for the Pam De Young Net Zero Energy Fund grant, due June 15, 2025. The fund provides funds to assist MC USA congregations interested in forms of renewable energy. Learn more [here](#):

MENNO SNAPSHOTS: Read thoughts from people across MC USA as they journey through their faith: From **Dianne Garcia, pastor of our sister church**, Iglesia Cristiana Roca de Refugio in San Antonio, who [reflects on what it means to celebrate Lent](#), even while being oppressed. From Matt Prichard, a conference minister who [shares his view](#) that "to **revitalize the church and effectively address global issues**, Mennonite communities must focus on three key areas: deep community engagement, revitalized peacemaking and radical hospitality."

JUST PEACE PILGRIMAGES: Mennonite Missions is offering Just Peace Pilgrimages, both in the US and abroad. Travel and learn! [More info here.](#)

MENNONITE EDUCATION AGENCY (MEA): The MEA Job Board has been updated! To view all job opportunities across Mennonite education, visit the [Job Board](#).

MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE (MCC): [March "In Touch" Newsletter](#) If you'd like to subscribe to MCC newsletters, find descriptions and links [here](#).

~ IN THE LARGER COMMUNITY ~

DISCOUNTED PRE-PAID PLANS: [Dignity Memorial in Boulder](#) is offering church members 10% off pre-paid end of life plans. Call 303-442-4411, and ask for Rebecca or Deb.

ECOLOGY TIP: Whether the weather is snowy or warmly delightful, take a moment now that it's spring to go on a little neighborhood scavenger hunt! Perhaps find a child or someone else young at heart and together make up a list of things to look for. Some ideas are: buds on trees, emerging greens of garlic, crocuses and other spring bulbs in bloom, three different coniferous trees (evergreens), and five different kinds of birds.



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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