



Welcome to Boulder Mennonite Church

Sunday, March 16, 2025

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

A Service of the Word



Christ in the Wilderness - The Hen, Stanley Spencer 1939

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 Ojibwe 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** Could it be that God is singing 42

Call to Worship based on Psalm 27 and Luke 4.1-13

Leader: Spirit of justice and compassion, we gather in Love's presence.

People: Our hearts thirst for a life where truth, kindness, and empathy light our way, as parched earth awaits the refreshing rain.

Leader: God is the light that overcomes fear and the shelter that gathers us close.

People: Like a nurturing hen gathering her chicks, God calls us into a community of grace and care.

Leader: Empower us to shine our light of justice and mercy in our world.

**All: May our souls be filled with abundant love and hope.
Let us celebrate life and worship God!**

Welcome

CELEBRATING & PRAISING

Singing The Lord is my light 437

Confessing and Centering Prayer adapted from Psalm 27

Leader: The path of Love is before us, yet we turn aside, drawn by fear, pride, or indifference.

People: We lose sight of what is true, seeking our own way instead of the way of peace.

Leader: Yet Love does not abandon us. Mercy calls us back, again and again.

People: Teach us the Way, that we may walk in light and not stumble in fear.

Leader: We need courage to return, to trust in what is good and just.

All: We turn back to Love, to Justice, to Peace. We open our hearts to grace and begin again. Amen.

Singing Peace to you 168

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

Gospel Reading

Luke 13.31-35

Some Pharisees came to Jesus and said, **“You need to get out of town, and fast! Herod is trying to kill you!”**

Jesus replied, **“Go tell that fox, ‘Today and tomorrow, I’ll be casting out devils and healing people, and on the third day I’ll reach my goal.’**

“Even with all that, I’ll continue on my journey today, tomorrow and the day after that, since no prophet can be allowed to die anywhere except in Jerusalem. O Jerusalem, Jerusalem! You kill the prophets and stone those who are sent to you! How often I have wanted to gather your children together as a mother hen collects her chicks under her wings—yet you refuse me!

“So take note: your house will be left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, ‘Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God!’”

Singing

Mothering God, you gave me birth

426

Anabaptist Reading

Michael Sattler, *Trial Testimony*, 1527

If you do not repent and turn from your ways, you will one day regret what you do now. Yet I do not stand here in fear, for I know the One in whom I have placed my trust. The Almighty God has called us to witness to the truth of Christ’s kingdom—a kingdom not ruled by the sword, but by love; not established through force, but through faithfulness. You may take this body, but you cannot touch the soul. My hope is not in this life but in the life to come, and I will not waver in the path my Savior has set before me.

I go willingly into the hands of my Lord, for Christ himself has shown us the way. He did not strike back when struck, nor curse those who condemned him, but opened his arms in love—even for his enemies. This is the way of Jesus, the way of the cross. And so, I pray that you who stand in judgment may yet come to know the mercy of God. As Christ forgave, so do I. May the will of God be done.

Reflection

Under Love’s Wings: The Way of the Hen

RESPONDING

Singing	When pain or sorrow (Hold On)	612
Sharing Joys and Concerns Prayers of the People		

SENDING

Announcements		
*Benediction		
*Sending Song	My life flows on, v. 1	605



Resources used in worship:

Scripture adapted from The Inclusive Bible, Priests for Equality
Cover Art: [Stanley Spencer's Christ in the Wilderness - The Hen](#) and [Stanley Spencer - Wikipedia](#)
Michael Sattler in *The Martyrs Mirror: The Story of Seventeenth-Century Anabaptist Martyrs and Defenders of the Faith*. Van Braght, Thieleman J. Translated by Joseph F. Sohm, Herald Press, 1950

Thanks to all who contributed to our service today!

Speaker:	Pastor Randy
Worship Leader:	Becky Neumann
Readers:	Jen Dudenhefer, Douglas Minter
Music:	Justin Mathis, Randy Spaulding, Judy Classen
Tech Support:	Alfred Sawatzky
Greeters:	Paul Classen, Karl Ortman
Snacks:	Michelene Fast, Tammie Bernstein, Gus Gouvas
Moment for All Ages:	Cheri Krause

March 9, 2025:	Attendance: 36	Offering: \$4,140
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. <i>Thank you!</i>		

TODAY at BMC

9:30a	Worship and mingling
11:00a	Education Hour: joint adult/youth, meet in the sanctuary
4:00p	Heretics, Heresy, (dis)Harmony small group, Broomfield

THIS WEEK at BMC

Tues, 3/19	Meditation/Centering Prayer Group
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NEXT SUNDAY – March 23, 2025: Third Sunday in the Season of Lent

9:30a Worship and mingling

11:00a Education Hour

Speaker: Pastor Randy Spaulding

Worship Leader: Berit Jany

Readers: Lisa Voss, Joanna Harrison

Music: Justin Mathis, Jean McPherson, Pastor Randy

Tech Support: The Tice Family

Greeters: Ezra & Joan Tice

Snacks: Jen Dudenhefer, Gus Gouvas

COMING UP

3/25 Singing small group, 6:30p

3/29 Justin Mathis Clarinet Recital at BMC, 7:00p

4/17 Maundy Thursday Footwashing and Meal at BMC, 6pm

4/20 Easter Sunday, 9:30am Brunch; 10:30am Worship; 11:45am Easter Egg Hunt

4/23 Heretics, Heresy, (dis)Harmony small group, Broomfield, 4:00

5/4 Inter-Mennonite Hymn Sing, Glennon Heights Mennonite, 1:15p

5/25 John Paul Lederach, Beth El Mennonite, Colorado Springs

7/8-12 MennoCon25: Follow Jesus, Greensboro, NC

8/1-3 Mountain States Mennonite Conference Assembly, Glennwood Spgs

~PRAYERS~

~for **those preparing to travel to and the organizers** of Mennonite World Conference's celebrations in Switzerland and Germany to commemorate the birth of the Anabaptist movement.

~for **Community Peacemaker Teams Iraqi Kurdistan** being awarded the Dutch government's Human Rights Tulip prize in Baghdad. We will continue to amplify the voices of journalists, activists, and all those who fight for the truth, despite the risks they face.

~for our sister congregation, the **Anabaptist Fellowship of Alamosa**. As a host congregation for Mennonite Voluntary Service, this time of year starts a cycle of annual "comings and goings." Pray for our congregation, our current volunteers, and potential new volunteers.

March Birthdays	
1 – Gus Dino Gouvas	16 – Nevin McKay Epp
2 – Nancy Wolff	23 – Cindy Firnhaber
4 – Laura Minter	27 – Becky Sawatzky
7 – Ryan Loewer	27 – Joshua Tice
13 – Marit	30 – Koketso Firnhaber

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~

LENT 2025: RETURN TO LOVE'S WAY. Lent is often referred to as *Spring Cleaning for the Soul*. It's a time to learn to travel light, to clear the clutter from our crowded hearts and lives, and to find a space to reconnect with the Holy. Like the labyrinth, it is both an inward journey and a return. This year, the theme invites us to *return to the way of Love*, trusting in the Spirit of forgiveness, reconciliation and renewal. At *Boulder Mennonite Church* we will practice corporate **confession** in worship, a key element of Lent. May we find food for our hungry souls and the refreshing water that quenches all thirst. ~ **Pastor Randy**

Food Donation: BMC delivered **55 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](#)

Thanks to Steve Voran and Karl Ortman for installing new motion-sensor light switches around the church. Can you find them all?

~ ACROSS THE ANABAPTIST COMMUNITY~

SAVE THE DATE:

- **Inter-Mennonite Hymn Sing**, May 4, 1:15p, Glennon Heights Mennonite Church, Lakewood. Reception to follow, honoring Brenda & Barry Bartel, who are moving to Oregon.
- **Mountain States Mennonite Conference Annual Assembly**. August 1-3, at [Colorado Mountain College](#), near Glenwood Springs. The facilities are great, and the lodging (rooms with private bathrooms) is inexpensive. Stay tuned, **room registrations are due by July 1**. Our theme is *Wholehearted Hospitality* and we look forward to welcoming you!

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. Some amazing speakers, including John Paul Lederach (5/25) and Shane Claiborne (9/12 – 14)!

ROCKY MOUNTAIN MENNONITE CAMP (RMMC): Visit the rmmc.org for details.

- Summer [staff](#) and volunteer opportunities are available!
- **Colorado Roots Music Camp** June 1-7. Be inspired by a variety of styles, first-rate musicians, and the incredible experience of being immersed in acoustic music. Our instructors are some of the top players in the nation, and great instructors for all levels.
- **Wilderness Camps** offer a unique blend of destinations and activities, like rock climbing and rappelling, backpacking, and camping in the beauty of remote wilderness areas.

MENNONITE CHURCH USA (MCUSA): See March's [PeaceMail](#), which contains the article "The bigger story: Lent for the oppressed and the privileged" along with Lent resources, upcoming events, and a Climate Justice Corner.

FROM MENNONITE ACTION: Latest episode of their podcast, [Front Light](#), interviews Jonathan Brennaman, a Palestinian American Christian. They also offer [info and resources](#) on public witness to proclaim "God's Love Knows No Borders!" A Colorado event is being planned for noon on **Thursday, March 27th at the State Capitol**. We are hoping that Mennonites, Anabaptists, and others who support nonviolent protest will join us. The 45-minute action will involve singing and brief spoken messages. More details soon. **Please RSVP** if you plan to attend and especially if you can assist on that day to Christie Burton (ckburton44@gmail.com) or Jeni Hielt Umble (jeni.umble@gmail.com).

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.](#)

SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES NETWORK (SCN):

- The spring meeting includes a training, *Harnessing Our Power to End Political Violence* on 3/25 at 11a via Zoom. The training explores how to interrupt the political violence that increasingly targets LGBTQIA+ and other marginalized groups. The amazing Rev. Naomi Washington-Leapheart and our own Matt Guynn will co-facilitate. While especially planned for SCN leaders, anyone is welcome. [Click here for details and to RSVP.](#)
- Queer Theology Sunday School: Exploring a queer and trans inclusive theology of childhood and faith development. [More info and registration.](#)
- The Brethren Mennonite Council for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Interests put out an Ash Wednesday statement ([here](#) or see bulletin board) in support of LGBTQIA2S+, working class, and immigrant rights. Email churchadmin@bouldermennonite.org for more info about SCN.
- Attend [Fabulous Fierce and Sacred May 2-4](#) in Philly for the gayest Anabaptist gathering of the year!

MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE (MCC): [March “In Touch” Newsletter](#), includes a “How thrift-savvy are you?” quiz with a chance to win a \$50 MCC Thrift gift card.

MENNONITE DISASTER SERVICE (MDS): See [recent news and stories here](#).

MENNONITE MISSION NETWORK (MMN): Read the [latest news and stories here](#).

ANABAPTISM AT 500 ESSAY CONTEST: Showcase your writing skills and win financial support for your education. Interested students should [go online](#) to complete the application form and upload their essay. Applications due by April 19, 2025.

~ IN THE LARGER COMMUNITY ~

SISTER CITIES SIGNING CEREMONY: Join Broomfield residents, area advocates and elected officials for this seminal event in the history of Broomfield, CO and Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, the second-ever [Sister Cities partnership](#) nationwide between a U.S. community and a sovereign Native nation. The ceremony is on March 22, at 4:00p in Denver. For more information about the ceremony and to RSVP, [see our website](#).

KING SOOPERS REMEMBRANCE: This Saturday, 3/22, marks the 4th anniversary of the shooting at the King Soopers near our building. The city and several partners will hold a free [Day of Remembrance event](#) to honor the victims at The Museum of Boulder, 2205 Broadway, at 2:00p. All are welcome to join us in person as we remember those who are no longer with us, offer support to one another and come together as a community.

HELP ADVOCATE FOR HABITAT! Flatirons Habitat for Humanity is asking us to raise our voices as they face clawbacks (the EPA asking for money back) in their funding. See [letter here](#).

ECOLOGY TIP: As executive orders continue to wreak havoc with so many people and institutions, let’s turn our attention to the EPA. The purpose of the Environmental Protection Agency is to protect the environment and the health of human beings and to ensure that environmental stewardship is part of U.S. policy. It fulfills this mission in many ways, including monitoring of air and water sources, setting up regulations to protect the environment, education, environmental justice, and making sure toxic spills and other pollutants are cleaned up responsibly. Contact Congress and express your concerns that this agency cannot afford cuts, as it is vital to protecting our land, water, air, and human health.



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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