



Welcome to Boulder Mennonite Church

Sunday, August 31st, 2025

22nd Sunday in the Season of Ordinary Time

Faith Sharing Sunday



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** Gathered here in the mystery 3

Call to Worship

Leader: Come, people of God, and bring your best to this place.

People: We bring our hearts, our minds, our voices, and our actions.

Leader: Come, people of Love, into the sacred center of our faith:

People: The Way of Jesus is the center of our faith,

Community is the center of our lives,

Reconciliation is the center of our work

Leader: May holy Spirit lead us in our faith, our lives, our work.

All: Let us celebrate Life. Let us worship God!

Welcome

CELEBRATING & PRAISING

Singing God's glory fills the heavens 197

Centering Prayer

Singing Calm me, Lord 680

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

Gospel Reading Luke 14.1, 7-14

One Sabbath, when Jesus came to eat a meal in the house of one of the leading Pharisees, the guests watched him closely. Jesus went on to address a parable to the guests, noticing how they were trying to get a place of honor at the table.

“When you’re invited to a wedding party, don’t sit in the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished has been invited. Otherwise the hosts might come and say to you, ‘Make room for this person,’ and you would have to proceed shamefacedly to the lowest place. What you should do is go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your hosts approach you they’ll say, ‘My friend, come up higher.’ This will win you the esteem of the other guests. **For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”**

Then Jesus said to the host, **“Whenever you give a lunch or dinner, don’t invite your friends or colleagues or relatives or wealthy neighbors. They might invite you in return and thus repay you. No, when you throw a dinner party, invite those who are poor or have physical infirmities or are blind.** You should be pleased that they can’t repay you, for you’ll be repaid at the resurrection of the just.”

Now Testament Reading

Owning our Power, Melody Beattie

We don't have to give others so much power and ourselves so little. We don't have to give others so much credit and ourselves so little. In recovery from codependency, we learn there's a big difference between humility and discounting ourselves.

When others act irresponsibly and attempt to blame their problems on us, we no longer feel guilty. We let them face their own consequences. When others try to manipulate or exploit us, we know it's okay to feel anger and distrust and to say no to the plan.

We don't have to give up our personal power to anyone: strangers, friends, spouses, children, authority figures, or those over whom we're in authority. People may have things to teach us. But we are equals. Our magic is not in them. Our magic, our light, is in us.

We are not second-class citizens. By owning our power, we don't have to become aggressive or controlling. But we don't discount ourselves either.

Today, I will own my power with people. I will be open to changing and learning from others and experience, but I will trust and validate myself too. I will stand in my own truth.

Singing

Be thou my vision, vv. 1, 2

549

Faith Sharing: Joyce Penner

RESPONDING

Singing

Rain down

703

Sharing Joys and Concerns
Prayers of the People

SENDING

Announcements

*Benediction

*Sending Song

Guide my feet, vv. 1, 4, 5

816

Resources used in worship:

Scripture adapted from The Inclusive Bible, Priests for Equality

Call to Worship by RLS, adapted from Palmer Becker, What is an Anabaptist Christian, *Missio Dei*

Now Testament reading, from *The Language of Letting Go* by Melody Beattie, © 1990, Hazelden Foundation



We welcome BMCer **Joyce Penner** as our guest speaker this morning. Joyce was raised in a Mennonite Brethren home in Fresno CA. She worked at Lawrence Livermore Laboratory for 18 years after receiving her PhD, then moved to Michigan where she taught Atmospheric Science until last December when she retired. She loves skiing and tennis. *Many blessings as you share this morning, Joyce!*

Thanks to all who contributed to our service today!

Guest Speaker:	Joyce Penner
Worship Leader:	Sandi Sanborn
Readers:	Laura Minter, Becky Neumann
Music:	Susan Graber, Pastor Randy Spaulding
Tech Support:	Mike & Frances Tice
Greeters:	Karl Ortman, Mai Wheeler, Sheng Wheeler
Snacks:	Susan Graber

August 24 – Attendance: 53 Offering: \$883

TODAY at BMC

9:30a	Worship and mingling
10:45a	Connecting and snacks
11:00a	No Education Hour – summer schedule

THIS WEEK at BMC

9/3	Meditation/Centering prayer small group, 11a
9/4	PCRC, 9a

NEXT SUNDAY – September 7, 2025:

9:30am	Worship and mingling
11:00am	Education Hour: <i>Isaiah</i> bible study, Ezra Tice, Facilitator Youth Gathering, Room 102, with Pastor Randy

Speaker: Pastor Randy Spaulding
Worship Leader: Becky Neumann
Readers: Sandi Sanborn, Douglas Minter
Music: Elleanna Voran, Bruce Fast
Tech Support: Tice family
Greeters: Elvira Glenn, Laura Minter
Snacks: Jen Dudenhefer, Gus Gouvas
A Moment for All Ages: Pastor Randy

COMING UP

9/9 Singing small group, 6:30p
 9/11 Church Council, 5p
 9/17 Meditation/Centering prayer small group, 11a
 9/20 BMC Social Gathering with Music on the Deck, 6p
 9/21 Anabaptist Pilgrimage presentation by Susan Graber & Carole Suderman
 9/23 Singing Small Group, 6:30p
 9/24 Deacons meeting, 8:30a
 9/24 Meditation/Centering prayer small group, 11a
 9/27 Habitat for Humanity service-learning project
 9/28 Heretics, Heresy, (dis)Harmony Small Group, 4p
 10/5 School Kit Sunday @BMC
 10/18 Relief Sale, Mennonite Central Committee, Castle Rock, CO

~PRAYERS~

~for the family of **Jon Stuckal**, who died on Wednesday, after a valiant struggle with cancer. Jon is one of **Gary Stephens'** best friends, whom Gary has known since childhood.
 ~for the **people of Minneapolis**, our Catholic kindred, and the families of all who were affected by the shooting this week.
 ~for an end to violence around the world, especially Ukraine, Russia, Palestine, Israel, Sudan, DRC.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS		SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES
8 – Lisa Voss	16 – Susan Graber	1 – Suzanne Classen & Ryan Loewer
9 – Brenda Fox	20 – Alfred Sawatzky	
12 – Jen Dudenhefer	30 – Wilburn Taylor	
12 – Miles Mathis		

~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~

BMC DIRECTORY PHOTO! PLEASE RESPOND: For the final part of the Active Participants Directory at BMC, please submit your photo so that we can be more welcoming to people who are new to our congregation. Use this link to submit your photo: [BMC Directory Photo](#). If you do not have a photo to submit, Cheri will be available at church on Sundays, August 31 and Sept 7 to take your photo. If you are not able to attend church on either of those days, please arrange a separate time with Cheri to take your photo: 510-227-9712 or deacons@bouldermennonite.org.

TIME AND TALENT SURVEY: Time / Talent Survey: If you haven't already done so, please take a few minutes to complete our survey right now, as you are able. The survey helps the BMC leadership to know how you are willing and able to share your time and talents with the congregation. Use the link forms.gle/ria1NP8u43yKJx3Y6 or the link on the BMC website, under "Community".

NEW BMC DEACON: We welcome **Douglas Minter** as our newest Deacon. He will take the spot that has been so ably filled by **Paul Classen** for the last six years. Thank you, Paul, for your dedication and service! The Deacons of BMC work closely with the pastor to help guide and nurture the spiritual life of the congregation. They help promote small groups, assist the pastor with communion, baptisms, healing services, etc., provide non-emergency care when the pastor is away, and promote and oversee our BMC Service-Learning opportunities. There will be a time of commissioning Douglas and blessing Paul, coming up soon. Stay tuned!

BMC EDUCATION HOUR BEGINS in September. Starting Sept. 7, Ezra Tice will lead sessions on the Hebrew Scripture book of **Isaiah**, and alternating weeks Pastor Randy will lead a book study by Mennonite theologian and professor Drew Strait. If you'd like to order your own copy of the book, click on this link: [Strange Worship: Six Steps for Challenging Christian Nationalism](#). The first session will begin September 7. Pastor Randy will continue to meet with our BMC youth each month during the Education Hour. Click here to [order a copy of the new Anabaptist Community Bible](#), or [download the app for your phone](#) (the app is free!).

SERVICE-LEARNING PROJECT: Mark your calendars for Saturday, September 27, 2025, when BMC will join Flatirons Habitat at BoulderMOD, Boulder's first modular housing factory. We'll learn how this innovative project



builds affordable homes while training future tradespeople—and we'll get to be part of the work by helping build a home that day.

MCC SCHOOL KIT SUNDAY: On October 5, we'll assemble Mennonite Central Committee school kits during worship—simple gifts that support children's education around the world. Our goal is 750–1,000 kits this year (about \$9 each), continuing a 20-year tradition that has provided nearly 20,000 kits from BMC. You can help by [donating online](#), through the Sunday offering, or by giving a check (memo: "MCC School Kits") directly to Bruce Fast.

CROPWALK 2025: The annual Boulder County CROP Hunger Walk takes place October 12, with Boulder Mennonite participating as we have for many years. Funds raised support Church World Service (75%), Community Food Share (24%), and Bread for the World (1%), helping fight hunger locally and globally. You can join our team online or pick up an envelope from Paul Classen to collect donations—even if you cannot walk on the day itself.

~ ACROSS THE ANABAPTIST COMMUNITY ~

FROM ROCKY MOUNTAIN MENNONITE DISASTER SERVICE:

1. The Alexander Mountain fire outside of Estes Park, Colorado, will require site preparation. No chainsaws or tree cutting, just erosion control at the fire site and planting of 4,000 tree seedlings. We encourage families and youth to join us for a one-day work project, set for the last week in September.
2. Pray for the people in New Mexico who have been waiting for over two years to restore their homes and lands that have been in their families for four generations. No one else has responded, and they are giving up hope.
3. Join the Rocky Mountain Unit (Colorado, Westcliff Amish, and New Mexico partners) in two to four-day projects in the beautiful Sangre de Cristo Mountains. Our next scheduled project is in early October, when we plan to begin building 3 houses if permits are approved. More info to come.
4. If you are unable to volunteer, a donation of \$95 to MDS, Rocky Mountain Unit will feed project volunteers for one breakfast and lunch on the project. A donation of \$120 will fund all the volunteers a hearty home-cooked dinner and provide beverages to keep them hydrated for one day. Thank you again for your support. For more information, contact: Paul Johnson, Unit chair, text at 720.880.8773 or Mike Smith, New Mexico Project Coordinator, 505.603.5739

THE MC USA WOMEN'S SUMMIT 2025, hosted by MC USA's Women in Leadership ministry, addressed learning to pause, restore and resist. This dichotomy was discussed by inviting participants to consider a radical way to think about rest – as not just a necessity, but as an act of defiance. Read more [here](#).

FORT COLLINS MENNONITE FELLOWSHIP: Fort Collins Mennonite Fellowship (FCMF) has existed for 50 years, and the Mennonites have existed for 500 years! SAVE THE DATE! Sunday, September 14, 2025, 10a to 2p. Featuring: • Special worship service • Delicious potluck lunch • Exhibits by local partners and vendors • Live entertainment by Betwixt n Between

(bluegrass/gospel band). We also urge you to visit our “500-50” [GoFundMe site and consider contributing to our ongoing work with the homeless.](#)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN MCC SALE: On Saturday, October 18th. This annual event is a meaningful and fun-filled day of community, connection, and generosity, all in support of global relief, development, and peace efforts through MCC. Quiltmakers and admirers - we are looking forward to the Rocky Mountain Relief Sale and Quilt Auction again this year at the Douglas County Fairgrounds on October 18th and welcome your handcrafted new or second-owner quilt donations in excellent condition. The quilt submission form is open on the Relief Sale Website: <http://www.rmmcsale.org>. You can also use this link to go directly to the [submission form](#). We hope to have 100 quilts in the auction again this year. The deadline for the online submissions is September 1st. Please deliver your quilt to one of the quilt contacts noted in the guidelines on the website by September 15th. If you have any trouble or need any support, please reach out to Katrina Schrock at eschrockefs@yahoo.com or 303-549-5882.

SOUTHWEST WRITING RETREAT FOR CHURCH LEADERS: Do you want to explore and develop your own voice as a writer? Isaac Villegas is leading a Collegeville Institute [5-day workshop-retreat](#) that will focus on the theme of immigration—to think and write about the migration stories that shape our lives. The [workshop](#) will take place in Tucson, AZ, in March of 2026. Applications are due September 7, 2025. Except for transportation to and from the retreat center, all expenses (including food and accommodations) will be covered for those accepted.

~ IN THE LARGER COMMUNITY ~

ECOLOGY TIP: If you could reduce pollution, greenhouse gases, and the need for fossil fuel by one simple act, wouldn't you do it? A recent trip to King Soopers revealed the following scenario: a customer was not only using plastic bags for one or two tomatoes or apples, she was tying them shut tightly, so clearly, they would not be able to be used again. It's so simple to just put onions or apples in the cart and on the conveyer belt with no bag at all. If you prefer to use a bag to keep things together, choose reusable mesh bags, which do not trap moisture inside, thus causing the produce to spoil.



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

3910 Table Mesa Drive, Boulder, CO 80305
(303) 443-3889 • www.bouldermennonite.org • churchadmin@bouldermennonite.org