

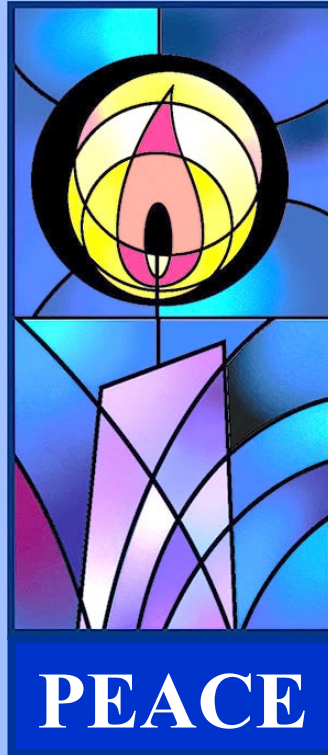


Welcome to Boulder Mennonite Church

Sunday, December 7, 2025

Second Sunday in the Season of Advent: PEACE

A Service of the Word



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 Ojethi 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

Bell and Silence

(Rest in quietness, breathe deeply. Listen to your heart. Listen to God.)

Singing O come, O come Immanuel, vv. 1, 3 210

Lighting the Advent Candle: Peace

Call to Worship adapted from Isaiah 11

Leader: The season of Advent challenges us

People: to re-imagine the world and see God's vision of what is yet to be:

Leader: Every being lives in peace and equity, and not one will be destroyed or hurt.

People: The wolf and the lamb, the calf and the lion,
the hunter and the deer, humans and the earth—

Leader: mortal enemies...together.

People: A little child shows them how to live side by side, in peace.

Leader: See! A green sprout grows from a stump.

All: *God's reign is beginning to flourish—the world is about to turn!*

Singing Hope is a candle, vv. 1, 2 211

Welcome

CELEBRATING & PRAISING

Singing Comfort, comfort, O my people 212

Confession and Assurance

Leader: God of shadows and light, our thoughts are not your thoughts. Our ways are not your ways.

All: *We offer our confession. May our hearts be healed; may our sins be forgiven.*

(silence)

Leader: In the Way of Jesus, we are called to hope, and the peace of God is revealed:

All: *a shoot will sprout from the stump of Jesse – there will be no harm or destruction anymore; Justice and Faithfulness will uphold us.*

(silence)

Leader: In the Light of the Anointed child, in the shadow of the Most High, we make our confession and receive your forgiveness.

All: ***Amen.***

The Rite of Baptism: Elleanna Voran

Singing As I went down to the river to pray, v. 1

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Congregational Response:

People: *You have made the good confession of Jesus the Anointed, and offered yourself to be our companion in the Way. May God bless you and make you a blessing in our midst. The peace of God be with you.*

Elleanna: And also with you.

People: *We welcome you, Elleanna, as a sister in this church. We pledge to bear each other's burdens, to assist in times of need, to share our gifts and possessions, to forgive one another, to work for justice and equity, to practice the way of peace and nonviolence, to support each other in times of joy and sorrow, and in all things to work for the common good, thus living the Jesus Way with authenticity and integrity. May the Holy Spirit make us one body the world over, united in diversity, now and in every age. AMEN*

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

Hebrew Scripture Reading

Isaiah 11.1-10

Then a shoot will sprout from the stump of Jesse; from Jesse's roots, a branch will blossom: The Spirit of God will rest on you—a spirit of wisdom and understanding, a spirit of counsel and strength, a spirit of knowledge and reverence for the Eternal One. You will delight in your reverence of God and you won't judge by appearances or make decisions by hearsay. You will treat poor people with fairness and will uphold the rights of the land's downtrodden. With a single word you will strike down tyrants; with your decrees you will bring evil ones to an end. Justice will be the belt around this your waist—faithfulness will gird you up.

Then the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the young goat; the calf and the lion cub will graze together, and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear; their young will lie down together. The lion will eat hay like the ox. The baby will play next to the den of the cobra, and the toddler will dance over the viper's nest. There will be no harm, no destruction anywhere in my holy mountain; for as water fills the sea, so the land will be filled with knowledge of God. On that Day, the Root of Jesse will serve as a symbol to the peoples of the world—nations will flock to you, and your home will be a place of honor.

Singing

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming

216

Gospel Reading

Matthew 3.1-12

At this time John the Baptizer appeared in the desert of Judea, proclaiming, **“Change your hearts and minds, for the reign of heaven is about to break in upon you!”** It was John that the prophet Isaiah described when he said, **“A herald's voice cries in the desert: ‘Prepare the way of our God, make straight the paths of God!’”**

John was clothed in a garment of camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist. Grasshoppers and wild honey were his food. At that time, Jerusalem, all Judea and the whole region around the Jordan were going out to him. John baptized them in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins. When he saw that many of the Pharisees and Sadducees were coming to be baptized, John said to them,

“You pack of snakes! Who told you to flee from the coming wrath? Give some evidence that you mean to reform! And don't pride yourselves on the claim, ‘Sarah and Abraham are our parents.’ I tell you, God can raise children for Sarah and Abraham from these very stones! “Even now the ax is laid to the root of the tree. Every tree that is not fruitful will be cut down and thrown into the fire. I will baptize you in water if you have a change of heart, but the One who will follow me is more powerful than I. I'm not even fit to untie the sandals of the Coming One! **That One will baptize you in the Holy spirit and fire, whose winnowing-fan will clear the threshing floor. The grain will be gathered into the barn, but the chaff will be burned in unquenchable fire.**”

Reflection

Listening Beneath the Shouting

RESPONDING

Singing

We dream of a turning

209

Sharing Joys and Concerns Prayers of the People

SENDING

Announcements

*Benediction

*Sending Song

Rain down, v. 1

703



Resources used in worship:

Scripture adapted from The Inclusive Bible, Priests for Equality

Baptism liturgy: adapted from Voices Together 932

Call to Worship: adapted from Advent resources, Leader magazine, Fall 2010

Thanks to all who contributed to our service today!

Speaker:	Pastor Randy Spaulding
Worship Leader:	Douglas Minter
Readers:	Joan Tice, Douglas Minter
Music:	Elleanna Voran, Bruce Fast, Pastor Randy
Tech Support:	Mike & Frances Tice
Greeters:	Elvira Glenn, Laura Minter
Snacks:	Cindy Firnhaber
Moment for All Ages:	Susan Graber

November 30:

Attendance: 41

Offering: \$1,309

TODAY at BMC

9:30a	Worship
10:45a	Snacks and Connecting time
11:00a	Education Hour: Pastoral Transition Discussion, Barry Janzen, facilitator

THIS WEEK at BMC

12/9	Singing small group, 6:30p
12/11	Church Council, 5p
12/12	Deacon's meeting, 8:30a

NEXT SUNDAY – December 14, 2025: Third Sunday in the Season of Advent: Joy

9:30am	Worship
10:45am	Connecting and Snacks
11:00am	Education Hour: Adults meet in the sanctuary. Youth Gathering, Rm 102

Speaker: Pastor Randy Spaulding
Worship Leader: Ezra Tice
Readers: Jen Dudenhefer, Douglas Minter
Music: Susan Graber, Jean McPherson
Tech Support: Steve Voran
Greeters: Carole Suderman, Toni Diaz
Snacks: Judy Classen
A Moment for all Ages: Karen Cox

COMING UP

12/14 BMC Youth Gathering, 11am, Room 102
 12/16 Casa de Paz celebration
 12/17 Meditation/Centering Prayer small group, 11a
 12/24 Soup Potluck @BMC, 5:30pm
 12/24 Christmas Eve Carols and Candlelight, 6:30pm
 1/8-11 Young Adult Peace Camp
 1/16-18 Jr. High Snow Camp @RMMC
 1/23-24 Kingian Nonviolent training, Wichita, KS
 1/30-2/1 Scrapbook retreat @RMMC
 2/13-15 Sr. High Snow Camp @RMMC
 2/13-15 Young Adult Snow Camp @RMMC
 4/17-19 Women's retreat @Highlands Presbyterian Retreat Center, Allens Park, CO

~PRAYERS~

~for **Sheng Wheeler** as he continues his remarkable recovery. For **Mai Wheeler** as she faces complications from her chemotherapy treatment for her cancer diagnosis. And prayers for **Bruce** as he tends to his beloved family.
 ~for **Community Peacemaker Teams** in Colombia as they accompany the small rural farming/fishing community called El Guayabo. The area lacks potable water, has no access to healthcare and has a crumbling school building. CPT has helped bring these issues to the attention of local authorities who are listening. [Read more here.](#)

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS	DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES
2 – Karl Ortman 10 – Cindi Fausel 15 – Carol Grasse 16 – Kent Olson 18 – Bennett Mathis	6 – Felipe Diaz Hormigo & Toni Diaz Bachus 31 – Jonathan & Debra Falk
<i>Please let us know if we failed to acknowledge your special day. We want to celebrate you!</i>	

~ANNOUNCEMENTS~

Please call in or email (info@bouldermennonite.org) announcements by Thursday, 7:00am.
DEACONS: Douglas Minter: 303-819-5248; 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: Tuesdays and Wednesdays until noon.

~ IN OUR COMMUNITY~

ADVENT-AT-HOME devotional guides are available on the table at the back of the sanctuary.

"Restoration is Near," a weekly guide from the first Sunday in Advent through Epiphany. It contains scripture readings, rituals and ideas, song suggestions and more as a guide through the season. If you would like a digital copy, see Pastor Randy. Maranatha, come, Jesus!

BMC SOCK PROJECT: This year, you are encouraged to bring warm, sturdy socks to BMC in December, to be collected for [All Roads-Boulder Shelter for the Homeless](#). Socks are the number one requested item during the winter months. There will be a box in the back of the sanctuary to collect them. Thank you for your generosity and compassion!



HOLIDAY MAGIC: A Pops Celebration Saturday, **December 13th, 2025 at 6:00 PM** Wheat Ridge Center for Music & Arts - 7530 W 38th Avenue, Wheat Ridge CO 80033. **Justin Mathis will be performing!**

CHRISTMAS EVE: Everyone is invited to a time of fellowship at a **SOUP POTLUCK DINNER** at 5:30pm and a time of worship at the **CANDLELIGHT CAROL SERVICE** at 6:30pm. **Bring one accompaniment** (bread, crackers, veggies, or dessert) **to go with your soup.**



HELP KEEP A FAMILY TOGETHER: Richard and Delana Schneider, who have helped our immigrant friends, have started a GoFundMe for another of their beloved Venezuelan families. The dad has been in detention since Oct 20, his wife and 2 kids will be evicted on 12/5. Their situation is dire. If you can help, visit <https://gofund.me/d59bb59fb> for more info and to donate. Thank you!

PASTORAL TRANSITIONS WEBINAR: 90-minute web meeting led by Rachel Ringenberg Miller, Denominational Minister for Ministerial Leadership for Mennonite Church USA, designed for congregations undergoing a pastoral transition. Rachel will explore the emotional and spiritual dynamics of pastoral change while guiding participants through discernment, visioning, and practical search processes. Attendees will also receive tools and resources from

MC USA's Church Vitality team to support a healthy, hope-filled transition. For more info and to register, click here: [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#).

~ ACROSS THE ANABAPTIST COMMUNITY ~

LIVE YOUR FAITH IN ACTION!: Mennonite Voluntary Service is accepting applications now for August 2026–July 2027. Adults 20+ are invited to serve for one year (renewable up to three) alongside nonprofits tackling poverty, immigration, education, health, and more. You'll live intentionally with other MVSers in a unit house, be supported by a local Mennonite church, and join a worldwide movement for peace and justice. Ready for a year that could change everything? Visit [our website](#) to explore placements and apply today!

JUST PEACE PILGRIMAGE 2026: Your congregation, Sunday school class and other groups are invited to join Mennonite Mission Network in a seven-day Civil Rights or Christ at the Borders Just Peace Pilgrimage to explore how God is weaving justice and reconciliation in U.S. and other communities. Engage firsthand with people, churches, and organizations who share how they pursue peace. Through group reflection, prayer, and worship, process these experiences and connect them to your faith; then return home as "changed people" who can inspire and lead change in your own community. For more information about a pilgrimage for your group, contact Stephanie Weaver, StephanieW@MennoniteMission.net, and find [more information here](#).

MENNONITE WORLD CONFERENCE: The MC USA Executive Board recently shared a **letter to all MC USA constituents** regarding a recent decision by Mennonite World Conference. The letter expresses the Executive Board's deep concern and reaffirms MC USA's ongoing commitment to unity and peacemaking within the global Anabaptist community. Please read it here in [English](#), and here in [Spanish](#).

ECOLOGY TIP: If you are doing more takeout food from restaurants during these busy days, save the plastic containers with lids for future leftovers. If you have already accumulated more than you can use, consider taking clean, empty containers back when you order your next meal, and ask for your food to be served in them. This will save the restaurant money, since they won't need to use a new container. And it will ultimately decrease the energy and waste needed to manufacture and dispose of plastic.



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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