



# Welcome to Boulder Mennonite Church

Sunday, January 4, 2026  
*Epiphany Sunday*

## A Service of the Word and Water

*I come into the peace of wild things...*

**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#  
An audio recording of the service can be found at [Speaker](#) after the service is completed

### ***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** Arise, your light has come! 273

**\*Call to Worship** adapted from Isaiah 60.1-6

Leader: Arise, shine, for your light has come! The glory of the Eternal One is rising upon you!

**People:** Though darkness covers the earth, and dense clouds enshroud the people, upon us the Eternal One now dawns, and God's glory will be seen among us!

Leader: Nations and leaders will come to the Light's bright dawn! Lift your eyes and look around: they're all gathering and coming to you – your children journey from afar, escorted in safety.

**People:** Our hearts swell with gladness, and we beam with joy. The richness of Love's justice flows – like gold and incense brought as gifts to the Holy One.

**All:** Let us sing and celebrate Life. Let us worship God!

### Welcome

## CELEBRATING & PRAISING

**Singing** See whose glory fills the skies, vv. 1, 2, 4 274

### Affirming our Faith

Leader: Let us offer our confession of faith, together:

**All:** *We believe in a bright and amazing God, who goes to the depths of despair on our behalf; who rises in splendor and majesty; who decorates the universe with sparkling water, clear white light, twinkling stars and sharp colors, over and over again.*

*We believe that Jesus is the light of the world; that God believes in us, and trusts us, even though we make the same mistakes over and over again.*

*We commit ourselves to the Way of Jesus, to one another as sisters and brothers, and to being God's helpers in the world.  
This is the joyful Reign of God! Amen.*

**Singing** As with gladness, vv. 1, 4 277

**The Rite of Baptism:** Joshua Tice

**Singing** From the waters I will rise 442

**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.*

**Joshua:** And also with you.

**People:** *We welcome you, Joshua, as a brother 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 2 hrs prior to the worship service. Or [click here to donate online](#).*

**Offertory**

**HEARING**

**Gospel Reading**

Matthew 2.1-12

After Jesus' birth—which happened in Bethlehem of Judea, during the reign of king Herod—astrologers from the East arrived in Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the newborn ruler of the Jewish people? We observed his star at its rising and have

**come to pay homage.”** At this news King Herod became greatly disturbed, as did all of Jerusalem. Summoning all the religious leaders of the people, he asked them where the Anointed One was to be born.

“In Bethlehem of Judea,” they informed him. “Here is what the prophet has written: **‘And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the leaders of Judah, since from you will come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”**

The king called the astrologers aside and found out from them the exact time of the star’s appearance. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, after having instructed them, “Go and get detailed information about the child. When you have found him, report back to me—so that I may go and offer homage, too.”

After their audience with the ruler, they set out. **And the star which they had observed at its rising went ahead of them until it came to a standstill over the place where the child lay. They were overjoyed at seeing the star and, upon entering the house, found the child with Mary, his mother. They bowed down and offered reverence. Then they opened their treasures and presented the child with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.**

They were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, so they went back to their own country by another route.

## Singing

O beautiful star of Bethlehem, vv. 1, 3

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## Now Testament Reading

*The Peace of Wild Things*, Wendell Berry

When despair for the world grows in me and I wake in the night at the least sound  
in fear of what my life and my children’s lives may be,  
I go and lie down where the wood drake rests in his beauty on the water,  
and the great heron feeds.

I come into the peace of wild things who do not tax their lives with forethought of grief.  
I come into the presence of still water.

And I feel above me the day-blind stars waiting with their light.  
For a time I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

## Message

*A Light Enough for the Next Step*

## RESPONDING

### Singing

Light dawns on a weary world

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### Receiving an Epiphany Word

*The Congregation is invited to come forward to receive a Word of Intention for 2026*

## Sharing Joys and Concerns Prayers of the People

### SENDING

#### Announcements

#### \*Benediction

#### \*Sending Song

See whose glory (refrain)

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#### Resources used in worship:

Scripture adapted from The Inclusive Bible, Priests for Equality

Wendell Berry, from *Collected Poems 1957-1982*, © Wendell Berry

Baptismal response adapted from Voices Together

Affirmation of Faith, adapted from the Iona Abbey Worship Book, Wild Goose Resources

#### Thanks to all who contributed to our service today!

**Speaker:** Pastor Randy Spaulding

**Worship Leader:** Sandi Sanborn

**Moment for All:** Cheri Krause

**Readers:** Joan & Ezra Tice

**Music:** Elleanna Voran, Bruce Fast

**Tech Support:** Tice Family

**Greeters:** Elvira Glenn, Karl Ortman

**Snacks:** Cindy Firnhaber

**December 28, 2025:** Attendance: 46    Offering: \$1,553.00

#### TODAY at BMC

9:30a      Worship

10:45a     Snacks and Connecting time

11:00a     Connecting Time – No Education hour

4:00p     Heretics, Heresy, and (dis)Harmony Small Group, 4p @BMC

#### THIS WEEK at BMC

Tues 1/6    PCRC meeting @ Becky Neumann's, 1pm

Wed 1/7    Meditation/Centering Prayer Small Group, 11am

Thurs 1/8   Church Council meets, 5pm

## **NEXT SUNDAY – January 11:**

9:30am      Worship and mingling  
11:00am      Farewell celebration for Pastor Randy & Gary after worship. See Carole or Susan for questions.

<b>Speaker:</b>	Pastor Randy Spaulding
<b>Worship Leader:</b>	Becky Neumann
<b>Readers:</b>	Lisa Voss, Joanna Harrison
<b>Music:</b>	Susan Graber,
<b>Moment for All Ages:</b>	Karen Cox
<b>Tech Support:</b>	Steve & Elleanna Voran
<b>Greeters:</b>	Carole Suderman, Toni Diaz Bachus
<b>Snacks:</b>	Jill Minter

## **COMING UP**

1/8-11	Young Adult Peace Camp
1/12	MC USA webinar on pastoral transitions, 5pm
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: My **mother** and **brother**, both in Nebraska with COVID. ~**Barry Janzen**

~for wisdom, strength and direction to continue proclaiming the Lord's message on **the island of Puerto Rico**. —*José Luis Vargas, Iglesia Menonita de Aibonito, Puerto Rico*

~Please pray that the **Mennonite and Brethren In Christ Churches** in India show the love of Christ to those persecuting them. In many places, followers of Jesus are being opposed by hardcore groups. Please pray especially for Chhattisgarh, where every Sunday churches are being attacked. —*Vikal Pravin Rao, regional representative, South Asia and Bhavana Masih, India*

## **January Birthdays**

1 – Justin Mathis	15 – Gary Stephens
4 – Ellen Morrison	24 – Mary McKay
6 – Berit Jany	30 – Lyn Krause
9 – Elleanna Voran	

*Please let us know if you would like your name added to our list. We want to celebrate you!*

## ~ANNOUNCEMENTS~

*Please call in or email ([info@bouldermennonite.org](mailto: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 ADMINISTRATOR:** Tuesdays and Wednesdays until noon.

## ~ IN OUR COMMUNITY~

**SAVE THE DATE:** July 24-26, 2026, next year's Mountain States Mennonite Conference Annual Assembly will be held in beautiful Boulder, CO. Where? You guessed it – Boulder Mennonite Church!

**SAVE THE DATE – BELONGING AND BOUNDARIES FAITH & LIFE FORUM:** This year the Faith & Life Forum will be held at Glennon Heights Mennonite Church, in Lakewood, on Saturday, March 7, from 9:30a-3p. Belonging and boundaries is the theme. Our speakers will be Ross Erb, MSW, Associate Director of the Collins Child Advocacy Center and Moriah Hurst, Pastor of Faith Formation at Assembly Mennonite Church. Discussion and training on the beauty and challenges of intergenerational connections. More information to come.

## ~ ACROSS THE ANABAPTIST COMMUNITY~

**MENNONITE CHURCH USA** invites you to a 90-minute webinar on navigating pastoral transitions led by Rachel Ringenberg Miller, denominational minister for Ministerial Leadership, on Mon., Jan. 12 at 5 p.m. Mountain. This session will offer guidance for congregations navigating or anticipating a pastoral change, with practical tools for discernment and visioning. Register here: <https://bit.ly/3XisPLk>

**MENNONITE VOLUNTARY SERVICE:** Live out your faith through service! Mennonite Voluntary Service (MVS) is now accepting applications for the 2026-27 term. This one-year volunteer experience is open to individuals age 20+, with the option to extend placements for an additional one to two years. Serve with organizations addressing critical community needs, such as health, education, immigration and more. You won't do it alone, though! By living with peers in a unit house and growing with a local faith community, MVSers join in the global movement to work for peace and a more just world. Ready to jump in? Go to [MennoniteMission.net/MVS](http://MennoniteMission.net/MVS) to learn more and apply.

**ANABAPTIST 500:** Did your congregation celebrate the 500th anniversary of Anabaptism in 2025? As we mark the 501st birthday of the Anabaptist movement, MC USA would like to **share photos from across the church** that capture how congregations honored this milestone. Please submit one or two photos from your celebration, so we can highlight them on MC USA's social media channels this month. Please upload your photos by **Friday, Jan. 9**, using this [form](#).

**MC USA** joined Indigenous leaders and partner organizations in a Native-led ceremony in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, to honor the children who died at the **Carlisle Indian Industrial School** and to acknowledge Mennonites' historical involvement. Read more about this important step toward truth-telling and [repair here](#). Boulder Mennonite is mentioned for our financial contribution.

**MENNO SNAPSHOT:** Sue Park-Hur, MC USA director of racial/ethnic engagement, urges churches to embrace diverse, **Christlike hospitality** in the new year – and highlights a practical checklist to help leaders create welcoming spaces. Read her Menno Snapshots blog [here](#).

## ~ IN THE LARGER COMMUNITY ~

**ECOLOGY TIP:** Why not make this the year you eat lower on the food chain? Not everyone can go completely vegetarian or vegan, but simply choosing to eat less meat can make a big difference for the planet. If you've been doing "Meatless Mondays", why not extend it to a Monday, Wednesday, Friday plan? Meat production plays a significant role in the climate crisis, through greenhouse gas emissions, deforestation, water use, and pollution, to name a few. Challenge your family members or a friend to try this experiment, and you might be amazed at the whole new world that opens up for you, tasting new foods and feeling healthier!



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

*Donate to BMC*

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