



Welcome to
Boulder Mennonite Church
Sunday, March 1, 2026

A Service of the Word
Second Sunday of Lent

While It Was Still Dark
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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.

Gospel Reading

John 3:1-17

A certain Pharisee named Nicodemus, a member of the Sanhedrin, came to Jesus at night. **“Rabbi,” he said, “we know you’re a teacher come from God, for no one can perform the signs and wonders you do, unless by the power of God.”** Jesus gave Nicodemus this answer: “The truth of the matter is, unless one is born from above, one cannot see the kingdom of God.” Nicodemus said, **“How can an adult be born a second time? I can’t go back into my mother’s womb to be born again!”**

Jesus replied: “The truth of the matter is, no one can enter God’s kingdom without being born of water and the Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh; what is born of the Spirit is Spirit. So don’t be surprised when I tell you that you must be born from above. The wind blows where it will. You hear the sound it makes, but you don’t know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” **“How can this be possible?”** asked Nicodemus.

Jesus replied, “You’re a teacher of Israel, and you still don’t understand these matters? The truth of the matter is, we’re talking about what we know; we’re testifying about what we’ve seen— yet you don’t accept our testimony. If you don’t believe when I tell you about earthly things, how will you believe when I tell you about heavenly things? No one has gone up to heaven except the One who came down from heaven—the Chosen One. As Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so the Chosen One must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in the Chosen One might have eternal life. **Yes, God so loved the world as to give the Only Begotten One, that whoever believes may not die, but have eternal life. God sent the Only Begotten into the world not to condemn the world, but that through the Only Begotten the world might be saved.**”

New Testament Reading

Roman 4:1-5, 13-17

What will we say about Sarah and Abraham, our ancestors according to the flesh? Certainly if they were justified by their deeds they had grounds for boasting—but not in God’s view. For what does scripture say? “Sarah and Abraham believed God, and it was credited to them as righteousness.”

Now, when a person works, the wages are regarded not as a favor, but as what is due. But when people do nothing except believe in the One who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness.

The promise made to Sarah and Abraham and their descendants—that they would inherit the world—did not depend on the Law; it was made in view of the righteousness that comes from faith. For if those who live by the Law are heirs, then faith is pointless and the promise is worthless. The Law forever holds the potential for punishment. Only when there is no Law can there be no violation.

Hence everything depends on faith; everything is grace. Thus the promise holds true for all of Sarah’s and Abraham’s descendants, not only for those who have the Law, but

for all who have their faith. They are the mother and the father of us all, which is why scripture says, “I will make you the parents of many nations”—all of which is done in the sight of the God in whom they believed, the God who restores the dead to life and calls into being things that don’t exist.

Reflection

God in the Dark

RESPONDING

***Singing**

My Life Flows On

605

**Sharing Joys and Concerns
Prayers of the People**

SENDING

Announcements

***Benediction**

***Sending Song**

I know God Loves Me

158



Resources used in worship:

Scripture adapted from The Inclusive Bible, Priests for Equality

About Our Guest Speaker:

Paul Olsen graduated from high school in Brush, CO. He has a BA in Religion and a Master of Divinity, and is an ordained Lutheran pastor. He has pastored congregations in Colorado and six other states. He completed two additional post-graduate programs with a focus on understanding how organizations function as systems, and on his role as a pastor of congregations and leader of ‘church family’ systems. He’s also a singer, actor, and an award-winning home brewer/vintner. His full bio is [here](#).

Welcome, and thank you for blessing us today, Paul!

Thanks to all who contributed to our service today!

Speaker:	Paul Olsen
Worship Leader:	Douglas Minter
Moment for All:	Cheri Krause
Readers:	Elvira Glenn, Toni Diaz Bachus
Music:	Susan Graber, Peter Ingram, Elleanna Voran
Tech Support:	Elleanna Voran, Steve Voran

Greeters:
Worship Coordinator

Elvira Glenn, Laura Minter
Sandi Sanborn

February 22, 2026:

Attendance: 28, 4 online

Offering: \$3,323

TODAY at BMC

9:30a Worship
10:45a Potluck! Set up in basement, and then eat. All are invited to join us!

THIS WEEK at BMC

3/4 Meditation Group, 11:00a
3/7 Faith & Life Forum (Mountain States Mennonite Conference), 9:30a,
Glennon Heights Mennonite Church

NEXT SUNDAY – March 8—*NOTE, daylight savings time begins, so set your clocks forward one hour before you go to bed so you don't miss worship!*

9:30am Worship and mingling
11:00am Christian Ed: Study of Isaiah with Ezra Tice

Speaker: Paul Johnson
Worship Leader: Sandi Sanborn
Moment for All: Karen Cox
Readers: Jean McPherson
Music: Susan Graber, Jean McPherson
Tech Support: Elleanna Voran, Steve Voran
Greeters: Ezra & Joan Tice
Snacks: Jill Minter
Worship Coordinator Sandi Sanborn

COMING UP

3/11 Bethel Alumni & Friends Gathering, 4:00p – 6:30p, hosted by Cornelia Krahn
and Kent Olson
3/14 Walking Group, 9:00a
3/22 Heresy, Heretics, and (dis)Harmony Small Group, 4:00p-6:00p
4/5 **Easter Sunday!** 9:30a Easter Breakfast/Brunch Potluck; 10:30a Worship
4/25 MDS Tree Planting Event for Mountain States Menno churches' youth
7/24-26 MSMC Annual Assembly, hosted by Boulder Menno!

~PRAYERS~

~for Gus Gouvas who was hospitalized again this week.

~for Joan Tice's health to continue to improve.

- ~Paul and Mary McKay ask for prayers that their nephew Matt may pass in peace. May God's spirit accompany his parents, Mary's sister Margaret and brother-in-law Loren.
- ~Carole Suderman asks for prayers for all those who knew and loved Kevin Whitefeather, who passed away on his native land near Taos. Many of us came to love this gentle soul and his brother Harold on our Service Learning Project trip 2.5 years ago.
- ~Mennonite Church USA asks for your continuing prayers for Anabaptist-Mennonite schools.
- ~for trans people and their families who have to deal with difficulties, like the new laws in Kansas.
- ~Carole Grasse asks for prayers for the ranchers, farmers, and communities of the Oklahoma panhandle, southwest Kansas, and north Texas as they recover from the damaging wildfires.

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
<i>Please let us know if we failed to acknowledge your special day. We want to celebrate you!</i>	

~ANNOUNCEMENTS~

DEACONS: Cheri Krause: 510-227-9712; Toni Diaz Bachus: 303-579-4290; Douglas Minter: 303-819-5248

CHURCH ADMINSTRATORS: Tom Dechert, Susan Graber, and Cheri Krause – someone is usually in the office part of the day Tuesday through Friday. *Please call in or email (info@bouldermennonite.org) announcements by Thursday, 8:00am.*

~ IN OUR COMMUNITY~

POTLUCK TODAY! We invite everyone to join us for the potluck today for family favorite foods! After worship, we'll all head to the basement and set up and then eat. Please stay to clean up as well. Working together is a good time for community fun!

DECORATING COMMITTEE: Doesn't the sanctuary look amazing?! Elleanna Voran (chair), Becky Neumann, Gwen Grasse, and Sandi Sanborn are part of the committee responsible for the change in decorations for Lent. Thank you so much!

CHRISTIAN ED: EXPLORING ISAIAH: The Book of Isaiah is considered one of the most important books in the Bible, providing a portrait of the Messiah, including his birth,

ministry, and sacrificial death. Ezra Tice will continue leading Christian Ed sessions in March to explore this fascinating book. We encourage you to join this interesting discussion.

GUEST SPEAKER: Next Sunday our guest speaker will be Paul Johnson. Some of us know Paul from his work with MDS and PrayerStream. He has a heart for service and justice and we look forward to his wisdom.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE: During our time of transition, Toni Diaz Bachus, Judy Classen, Sandi Sanborn, and Cheri Krause have been and continue to oversee our worship on Sunday mornings. Thanks to them for continued meaningful worship! If you have a suggestion for someone to preach on a Sunday morning, please email: churchadmin@bouldermennonite.org

~ ACROSS THE ANABAPTIST COMMUNITY ~

FAITH AND LIFE FORUM ON SATURDAY: We would like to have our congregation represented at the Forum on **Saturday, March 7, 9:30am - 3:00pm**, Glennon Heights Mennonite Church, 11480 W. Virginia Ave, in Lakewood. Topic is Intergenerational Connections. More info and registration [here](#). Promo videos [here](#) and [here](#). **Please let Barry know if you will be attending so we can be sure we are represented.**

MCC ANNUAL MEETING: MCC Central States Annual Meeting, with an update from MCC U.S. Board Chair Emerson Leshner, is 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 7 in North Newton, KS. If you would like to join via Zoom, please email tinascrag@mcc.org for a link to the meeting.

HISTORY OF MENNONITE WOMEN: This Women's History Month, journey through the stories of Mennonite women who have shaped our faith — from the first women's mission groups and early educators to today's pastors, peacebuilders and organizational leaders. Explore MC USA's Mennonite Women's History Timeline and be inspired by their courage, leadership and enduring witness: <https://www.mennoniteusa.org/mennonite-womens-history-timeline/>

MCUSA LAWSUITE UPDATE: On Thursday, Feb. 5, the United States Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit heard [oral arguments](#) in the appeal for injunctive relief in *Mennonite Church USA v. Department of Homeland Security*. MC USA, alongside more than 20 other Christian and Jewish groups, is seeking to reestablish long-standing protections that prevent immigration enforcement actions at or near houses of worship. This appellate court hearing follows a denial of our request for preliminary injunction by the district court. Members of MC USA attended the hearing alongside representatives from the Church of the Brethren, the Religious Society of Friends, and the United Methodist Church. We invite your prayers for the judges' ruling, which is expected within the next few months. Following this ruling, the case will return to the district court or be appealed further.

50th ANNIVERSARY OF BMC: Join the Brethren Mennonite Council for LGBT Interests (BMC) for a gathering rooted in sacred story and joyful revelry, as we mark our 50th Anniversary on May 29-31 in Minneapolis! This festive weekend will honor this incredible 50-year legacy of LGBTQIA+ Anabaptist resistance and resilience. Event details [here](#)

COB ANNUAL CONFERENCE: The 2026 Church of the Brethren Annual Conference is June 28 - July 2, in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Members of our church are eligible for a [special discount](#).

~ IN THE LARGER COMMUNITY ~

PALESTINIAN DEMOLITIONS: Good Shepherd Collective reports that Israel is demolishing Palestinian homes and infrastructure across the West Bank and East Jerusalem every 3.5 hours on average - and the destruction is getting little attention. Read their sobering [full report](#).

ECOLOGY TIP: The current federal administration is proposing changes to the Endangered Species Act that could have critical impacts on the most vulnerable animals, plants, and habitats in the U.S. Listing protective species and critical habitat could be based on “the best scientific and commercial data available”. This would clear the way for economic factors to outweigh conservation. To save protected species such as the Florida panther, the monarch butterfly, and the grizzly bear, contact the Department of the Interior or your elected officials.



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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