Welcome to

Boulder Mennonite Church

Sunday, November 29, 2026

Service of Advent I

God Dreams of Hope



Image from thecrossingchurch.com

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.

GATHERING

Prelude

***Singing** Hope is a Candle v1, 5 211

*Call to Worship

Leader: We gather to worship and to watch. What are we watching for?
People: Watching to see what God is doing.
Leader: What are we watching for?
People: Watching to see God's people live righteously.
Leader: What are we watching for?
People: Watching to see justice prevail.
Leader: What are we watching for?
People: Watching to see love take over the world.
Leader: What are we watching for?
All: We are watching and hoping for transformation for God's dream of love, peace, and justice to overflow in our world.

Welcome

CELEBRATING & PRAISING

***Singing** Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 218

Centering Prayer

*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 Readings Habakkuk 2:1-4; 3:17-19

God gives the prophet, Habakkuk, hope in a time of desperation

New Testament Readings Matthew 25:31-33; 40-46

Jesus' instructions, preparing for desperate times

"At the appointed time the Promised One will come in glory, escorted by all the angels of heaven, and will sit upon the royal throne, with all the nations assembled below.

Then the Promised One will separate them from one another, as a shepherd divides the sheep from the goats. The sheep will be placed on the right hand, the goats on the left.

The ruler will answer them, **"The truth is, every time you did this for the least of my sisters or brothers, you did it for me."**

"Then the ruler will say to those on the left, 'Out of my sight, you accursed ones! Into that everlasting fire prepared for the Devil and the fallen angels! I was hungry and you gave me no food; I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink. I was a stranger and you gave me no welcome; naked and you gave me no clothing. I was ill and in prison and you did not come to visit me.' Then they in turn will ask, **'When did we see you hungry or thirsty, or homeless or naked, or ill or in prison, and not take care of you?'** The answer will come, 'The truth is, as often as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me.' They will go off to eternal punishment, and the just will go off to eternal life."

New Testament Reading Matthew 7:24-27

Jesus' hope-giving teaching

"Anyone who hears my words and puts them into practice is like the sage who built a house on rock. **When the rainy season set in, the torrents came and the winds blew and buffeted the house. It didn't collapse because it had been set solidly on rock.** Anyone who hears my words but does not put them into practice is like the fool who built a house on sandy ground. **The rains fell; the torrents came; the winds blew and lashed against the house. And it collapsed and was completely ruined."**

Sermon **Christmas Brings us God's Gift of Hope**

RESPONDING

***Singing** O Little Town of Bethlehem 245

Sharing Joys and Concerns
Prayers of the People

SENDING

Introductions & Announcements

***Sending Song** To Us a Child of Hope is Born 259

***Benediction**

*Please stand as you are able
Resources used in worship:

Scripture adapted from The Inclusive Bible, Priests for Equality

Boulder Mennonite is committed to making our worship space sacred for all. Please refrain from taking pictures of people during the service without their consent. Thank you for your sensitivity to everyone, BMC Church Council.

Thanks to all who contributed to our service today!

Speaker:	Jim Friesen	**Prayers of the People:**	Toni Diaz Bachus
Worship Leader:	Toni Diaz Bachus	**Tech Support:**	Steve Voran
Moment for All:	Carole Suderman	**Greeters:**	Karl Ortamn, Lisa Voss
Readers:	Becky Neumann	**Snacks:**	Susan Graber
Music:	Susan Graber, Peter Ingram		

TODAY at BMC

9:30a Worship
10:45a Snacks and mingling

PASTOR: Terry Zimmerly, our transitional minister, **is travelling and will be back in the office Dec 9**. Contact Terry at: terry@bouldermennonite.org / 319-512-8625 (cell)

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

CHURCH ADMINSTRATOR: Cole Azulay is usually in the office Tuesday and Friday. *Please call in or email (info@bouldermennonite.org) announcements by Thursday, 8:00am.*



About Our Guest Speaker:

We welcome **Jim Friesen** this morning. Jim's father was a Mennonite Brethren pastor, and Jim studied at a Mennonite college – Fresno Pacific College – so he was in a position to soak up Mennonite doctrine and culture. He was also blessed to attend Fuller Theological Seminary Graduate School of Psychology, which prepared him for a career as a Christian Psychologist and a Pastoral Counselor. He directed a Christian Counseling Center for about 20 years, and kept on working in both the psychological and theological arenas for about 20 more years. Specializing in trauma recovery, he authored six books which integrated psychological and spiritual pathways to recovery. Earlier this year, it became time to retire, so he and Maureen left Southern California, and landed in Broomfield. Colorado is truly "God's Country" and they quickly fell in love with the friendly people and the spellbinding scenery.

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS *can be accessed here or via this QR code: They are also posted on the bulletin board in the sanctuary.*

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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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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS for November 29, 2026

Sunday, November 22, 2026: **Attendance:** 39, + 1 online **Offering:** $4,985

THIS WEEK at BMC

12/2 Meditation Group, 10:00a. Contact: Sandi Sanborn, 720-530-0659

NEXT SUNDAY – December 6, 2026:

9:30a Worship
10:45a Snacks and mingling
11:00a **Congregational meeting** to review survey results and try to reach a decision on whether we will seek a full-time or ¾-time pastor

Speaker:	Berit Jany
Worship Leader:	Douglas Minter
Moment for All:	Berit Jany
Readers:	Jean McPherson
Music:	Bruce Fast, Susan Graber, Joyce Penner
Prayers of the People:	Douglas Minter
Tech Support:	Peter Ingram
Greeters:	Elvira Glenn, Laura Minter
Snacks:	Cindy Firnhaber

COMING UP

12/12 Walking Group, 9:00a. Contacts: Karl Ortman, 303-938-9289 and Steve Voran, 303-250-3689
12/12 Heretics Group, 11a. Brunch. Contact Jeremiah Osborne-Gowey, 541-207-8105
12/15 Church Council meeting at 5p, at church and on Zoom
12/16 Meditation Group, 10:00a. Contact: Sandi Sanborn, 720-530-0659
12/24 Christmas Eve, 5:30p soup potluck, (please bring soup, and one accompaniment such as bread, crackers, veggies or dessert) 6:30p service
1/9 Bethel College Choir, afternoon concert at Boulder Mennonite, followed by a potluck dinner
7/6-10 MC USA's **MennoCon**, the national convention, Cincinnati, Ohio

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS		DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES
2 – Karl Ortman	16 – Kent Olson	6 – Felipe Diaz Hormigo & Toni Diaz Bachus
10 – Cindi Fausel	18 – Bennett Mathis	
15 – Carol Grasse		

~ PRAYERS ~

~ for Joyce's daughter, Kat, who suffered two concussions and is having a lot of trouble healing her brain.

~ for Mary Jungerman: For the healing of her left eye, which a recent biopsy on a spot discovered 4 years ago has been diagnosed as cancer. This recent information has been a lot to deal with, and I don't yet know what treatment might be advised to deal with this scary news.

~ from Mennonite Mission Network: Praise God that Christy Harrison and Peter Sensenig and their three children, have been welcomed into their new community in Beirut, Lebanon, and have received their residency permits. Pray for them as they become more acquainted with their new home and study Lebanese Arabic.

~ for Mennonites in Ukraine who continue to be affected by the ongoing war. He is amazed by the courage of so many who are providing food, clothing and support. We pray for an end to the conflict and for people to regain a semblance of peace. We give thanks for all Mennonites in Ukraine who are working for healing and hope amid such dire circumstances.

~ IN OUR CONGREGATION ~

PEACE CONCERT LAST SATURDAY NIGHT: Thank you to everyone who helped with the potluck and the peace concert. It was lovely to have our space used for an event that brought together people from various traditions who long for peace.

THANK YOU TO CHOIR: From Jean: A joyful thank you to all the JOYFUL SINGERS who sang in the choir ensemble in worship last Sunday.

FROM THE SEARCH COMMITTEE: Thank you to the 20 people who filled out the priorities survey. We are distributing the results and will give you an opportunity to respond at the meeting next Sunday. At that meeting, we will also work on the decision for whether to hire a full-time or part-time pastor. Our committee is recommending we seek a full-time pastor for a three-year term.

Here is an updated list of some events and milestones in the pastoral search process. (Completed items are struck out.) – Pastoral Search Committee: Douglas, Joanna, Steve, Susan, Toni

~~10/18~~	~~Congregational Meeting to introduce the survey on congregational and pastoral priorities, and to clarify "missional church"~~
~~11/1~~	~~**Congregational Meeting** to kick off the survey and talk together about our thoughts on the priorities. Please come ready to share your top 6 priorities.~~
~~11/15~~	~~**Survey responses due**~~
12/6	**Congregational Meeting** to review survey results and try to reach a decision on whether we will seek a full-time or ¾-time pastor
TBD	Ad released for pastor--all aspects of pastoral role must be defined when the ad is released so Amy Zimbleman, our conference minister, can advise potential candidates.

~ ACROSS THE ANABAPTIST COMMUNITY ~

DENVER PROTEST & HYMNS: Denver area folks are planning a hymn sing at our local congressional offices on **Friday, December 4th** to protest the integration of US and Israeli military actions. Action is needed to protest the 2027 budget for the National Defense Authorization Act. The budget includes provisions to merge the US and Israel's militaries in dangerous and unprecedented ways. Please see the "Chorus Against the Merger" toolkit from Mennonite Action.

NEW MENNONITE DOCUMENTARY: A new documentary that seeks to explain Mennonites to non-Mennonites is premiering in November on Pennsylvania public television. *Being Mennonite in America* was developed by filmmakers Burton and Mary Buller of Harrisonburg, Va., after conversations with local retired professors a decade ago grew into a yearslong project investigating the history of Mennonite identity across the United States.

FREE ADVENT RESOURCE: "God's Dream," a free Advent resource featuring weekly Scripture readings, prayers, reflection questions, activities and music, gives you a simple way to gather friends, family, neighbors or a small group around scripture, prayer, conversation and song. Download here.

FROM ANABAPTIST WORLD: Many of us bake Christmas cookies during Advent or make special baked goods for ourselves and as a gift to others. Maybe you want to treat yourself to fancy recipe you only make this time of year. Food can be a ritual! Read about five Advent rituals here.

ANNOUNCING Y'ALL: Mennonite Church USA has launched the Young Adult Leadership Laboratory (Y'ALL), a new internship program for college students interested in exploring ministry. Six summer 2027 internships are available, offering a 10-week hands-on ministry experience, a $4,000 stipend and housing at most locations. Upon successful completion, interns can also receive a full-tuition scholarship for a graduate degree at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary or Eastern Mennonite Seminary. **Applications are due Jan. 31, 2027**. Learn more about eligibility and apply here.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE: Peaceful Options for Training and Careers (POTC) is pleased to announce its scholarship offerings for 2027. The scholarships offer funding for education and training for young adults who might otherwise enlist in the military. Applications are open between now and February 28, 2027. See the POTC scholarship page for details.

MENNO SNAPSHOT: In her Menno Snapshots blog, spiritual director Marjorie Mott reflects on the changing seasons of a ginkgo tree and the spiritual lessons of surrender, vulnerability and rest. Her reflection invites readers to consider how letting go and slowing down can create space to receive God's care and flourish again. Read the blog here.

FROM MENNONITE ACTION: To start 2027 off strong, we're looking to raise $175,000 by the end of the year. We will raise the money the same way we do anything as a community: each of us pitching in what we can, creating something that's more significant than what any one person could do on their own. Contribute here.

Also, we invite you to join our next mass call, on December 3rd. It'll be our last mass call of the year, and also falls in the first week of Advent. RSVP here.

MENNO MEDIA DISCOUNT: *The Peace Table: A Storybook Bible* helps families gather around Scripture, conversation, and shared experiences that nurture faith and connection. For one week only, from November 28th through December 5th, receive 40% off *The Peace Table*, plus a FREE Advent Story Spiral Download here. Use the code ADVENT, which is valid Nov 28 thru Dec 5.

GIVE BACK ON GIVING TUESDAY DOUBLE THE JOY! On Tuesday, Dec. 1, your online Christmas donations to MCC will be matched up to **$198,500**. You can help us reach our goal and glow knowing that each dollar you give will be doubled all day! Donations that qualify for the match are only online and only through the MCC Giving Guide

MCC WEBINAR: The Global Journey of Secondhand Clothing: Lessons from Kenya on Wednesday, Dec. 9 at 11a MT. Join this lunchtime webinar to learn about the global secondhand clothing trade. Sarah Fleming, MCC Central States Thrift Coordinator will share about her recent trip to Kenya with the MCC Textile Salvage Working Group. Click here for more info.

CALLS TO ACTION FROM MCC: Peacebuilding can be sluggish work; quick reconciliation is hard to find. After three years advocating, praying and demonstrating, the somber reality persists: Israel's genocide in Gaza continues, Palestinians are experiencing unprecedented levels of violence and displacement in the West Bank, and escalating military attacks by the United States and Israel in other parts of the Middle East contribute to more suffering regionally and globally. If faith is belief in the unseen, our hope must be belief in the seemingly impossible. And our faithful persistence must be the force that brings this hope into reality. Click here to take action.

With a continuing resolution expiring December 11, Congress has yet to pass a final fiscal year 2027 budget. Now is an important time to remind members to protect funding for poverty-focused development assistance, global hunger and global health. Take action | Read more about U.S. foreign assistance

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD: To read news from around the world from Mennonite Mission Network, click here.

MENNOCON THIS SUMMER: Get ready for MennoCon '27, MC USA's biennial convention, July 6-10, in Cincinnati, Ohio. Registration opens in January! Read about places to see and things to do in Cincy here.

READ ABOUT MENNONITE MEN & THEIR PROGRAMS: Read about the work they are doing and how to get involved here.

MORE WITH LESS MUSIC RESOURCES: MennoMedia is pleased to offer a set of companion resources to accompany the 50th anniversary edition of the ***More-with-Less*** cookbook. These resources are for individuals and groups to live joyfully, richly, and creatively in the spirit of *More-with-Less* and are provided free of charge thanks to the generosity of our donors.

~ IN THE LARGER COMMUNITY ~

FROM GOOD SHEPHERD COLLECTIVE: Israel's Ministry of Education has ordered the closure of Al-Shabat comprehensive secondary school for girls in Wadi al-Joz, occupied East Jerusalem. The school is run by the Islamic Awqaf, according to the Jerusalem Governorate, which says Israeli forces entered the school on Thursday, November 26 and handed its administration the order. More info here.

ECOLOGY TIP: Many of us have heard that having growing plants indoors can increase our sense of well-being. But did you know that certain plants have special characteristics, almost like personalities, that can improve our health? For example, aloe vera not only is great for putting on burns and other injuries, but it is an air purifier, as many plants are. Basil is rich is antioxidants when eaten. Spider plants or airplane plants remove toxins from the air. Lavender promotes relaxation. Bring nature indoors for winter enjoyment!