

Welcome to Boulder Mennonite Church

Sunday, March 19, 2023

4th Sunday in the Season of Lent

A Service of the Word



"The Man Born Blind" by Ronald Raab CSC. www.ronaldraab.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.



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 "Flute Time" Thomas Arne

***Singing** Come away from rush and hurry 9

Call to Worship adapted from Psalm 23

Leader: Come, walk in green pastures and beside still waters.

People: May our spirits be renewed.

Leader: Don't be afraid. The Holy One leads us with a shepherd's tender care.

**People: Even in the valley of the shadow of death, we will not fear:
our God is with us.**

Leader: Come, dine at the table of abundance for all.

All: *May goodness and mercy follow us this day.*

Let us celebrate Life. Let us dwell in the heart of God!

Welcome

CELEBRATING & PRAISING

Singing Immortal, invisible, God only wise 98

Centering Prayer Romans 5.8-9

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 "I Believe in the Sun" Margret Tucker

HEARING

A Moment for All Ages

Hebrew Scripture Reading

1 Samuel 16.1, 6-13

The Eternal One said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve for Saul since I rejected him as ruler of Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way. For I am sending you to Jesse in Bethlehem, for I have chosen my ruler from among his children.”

When they arrived, and Samuel saw David’s oldest brother, Eliab, and said to himself, “Surely, God’s anointed stands here before the Eternal One.” But the Eternal One said to Samuel, “Pay no attention to appearance and height; I have rejected him. the Eternal One does not see as mortals see; mortals see only appearances but the Eternal One sees into the heart.”

Then Jesse called Abinadab to pass before Samuel, who said, “No. the Eternal One has not chosen this one.” Next came Shammah, but Samuel said, “Not this one either.” Seven sons were presented to Samuel by Jesse, who said, “the Eternal One has not chosen any of these.”

Samuel asked, “Are these all the sons you have?” “There is still the youngest,” Jesse said, “but he is tending the sheep.” Samuel said, “Send for him; we will not begin the sacrificial banquet until the lad arrives.” So they sent for the boy, a ruddy youth with bright eyes, and handsome to behold. the Eternal One said, “Rise and anoint this one.”

Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed the boy in the presence of his brothers, and from that day forward the Spirit of the Eternal One came upon David and was with him.

Singing

My Shepherd will supply my need

640

Gospel Reading

from John 9

As Jesus walked along, he saw someone who had been blind from birth. The disciples asked Jesus, **“Rabbi, was it this individual’s sin that caused the blindness, or that of the parents?”**

“Neither,” answered Jesus, “It wasn’t because of anyone’s sin— not this person’s, nor the parents’. Rather, it was to let God’s works shine forth in this person. We must do the deeds of the One who sent me while it is still day— for night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” With that, Jesus spat on the ground, made mud with his saliva and smeared the blind one’s eyes with the mud. Then Jesus said, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam”—“Siloam” means “sent.” So the person went off to wash, and came back able to see.

They took the one who had been born blind to the Pharisees. It had been on a Sabbath that Jesus had made the mud paste and opened this one’s eyes. The Pharisees asked how the individual could see. They were told, “Jesus put mud on my eyes. I washed it off, and now I can see.” This prompted some Pharisees to say, **“This Jesus cannot be from God, because he doesn’t keep the Sabbath.”** Others argued, **“But how could a sinner perform signs like these?”** They were sharply divided. Then they addressed the blind person again: **“Since it was your eyes he opened, what do you have to say about this Jesus?”**

“He’s a prophet,” came the reply. The Temple authorities refused to believe that this one had been blind and had begun to see, until they summoned the parents. They asked, **“Is this your child? And if so, do you attest that your child was blind at birth? How do you account for the fact that now your child can see?”**

The parents answered, “We know this is our child, blind from birth. But how our child can see now, or who opened those blind eyes, we have no idea. But don’t ask us—our child is old enough to speak without us!” The parents answered this way because they were afraid of the Temple authorities, who had already agreed among themselves that anyone who acknowledged Jesus as God’s Anointed One would be put out of the synagogue.

A second time they summoned the one who had been born blind and said, **“Give God the glory instead; we know that this Jesus is a sinner.”** The individual answered, “I don’t know whether he is a sinner or not. All I know is that I used to be blind, and now I can see.” They persisted, **“Just what did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?”**

“I already told you, but you won’t listen to me,” came the answer. “Why do you want to hear it all over again? Don’t tell me you want to become disciples of Jesus too!”

They retorted scornfully, **“You’re the one who is Jesus’ disciple. We’re disciples of Moses. We know that God spoke to Moses, but we have no idea where this Jesus comes from.”**

The other retorted: “Well, this is news! You don’t know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes! We know that God doesn’t hear sinners, but that if people are devout and obey God’s will, God listens to them. It is unheard of that anyone ever gave sight to a person blind from birth. If this one were not from God, he could never have done such a thing!”

They exclaimed, **“What?! You’re steeped in sin from birth, and you’re giving us lectures?”** With that they threw the person out.

Reflection: Travis Clarke

RESPONDING

Silent Meditation

(During Lent, and for a busy people, let this time be a gift to our congregation to wait together in silence. Use it to reflect on the events of the day, or as a time of introspection and to connect with something Greater.)

Musical Meditation

Singing

Amazing grace! vv. 1-3

163

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

SENDING

Announcements

*Benediction

*Sending Song

Amazing grace! v. 4

163



Resources used in worship:

Scripture adapted from The Inclusive Bible, Priests for Equality

Lenten worship resources adapted from MennoMedia Leader, Lent-Easter 2023



About our Guest Speaker: Travis Clarke attends Beth-El Mennonite Church (CO Springs), serves as the CO Springs [Service Adventure](#) (SA) co-leader with his wife Shelby, and is a PRN chaplain for the UCHealth system. He attended George W. Truett Theological Seminary in Waco, TX. *Welcome, Travis– we’re glad you’re among us today!*

Thanks to all who contributed to our service today!

Guest Speaker:	Travis Clarke
Worship Leader:	Toni Diaz Bachus
Readers:	Judy Classen, Michelene Fast
Music:	Judy Classen, Jean McPherson, Susan Graber, Justin Mathis
Moment for all Ages:	Cheri Krause
Tech Support:	Alfred Sawatzky
Greeters:	Paul Classen, Becky Neumann
Snacks:	Michelene Fast

March 12, 2023

Attendance: 30

*Offering:\$2,380

TODAY at BMC

9:30am Worship and mingling

11:00am Education Hour:

NEXT SUNDAY – March 26, 2023: 5th Sunday in the Season of Lent

Guest Speaker: Rev. Zachary Martinez

9:30am Worship and mingling

11:00am No Education Hour

COMING UP

- 3/19 Queer Mennonite Visioning Retreat, Camp Friedenswald, MI (Pastor Randy attending)
- 3/21 SOUL BOX art memorial – King Sooper shooting, 9a-2p
- 3/22 SOUL BOX art memorial – King Sooper shooting, 9a-8p
- 3/23 SOUL BOX art memorial – King Sooper shooting, 9a-2p
- 3/23-25 MC USA Constituency Leaders Council meetings, San Antonio, TX (Pastor Randy attending)
- 3/29 Deck work begins
- 3/31 Electrical work for the new BMC deck begins
- 4/2 Palm/Passion Sunday – Lord’s Supper
- 4/6 Maundy Thursday meal, foot washing service, 6pm
- 4/9 Easter breakfast @BMC, 9:30am; Easter worship, 10:30am; Egg-hunt to follow worship.
- 7/3-8 MC USA MennoCon 23, Kansas City, MO
- 7/21-23 Annual Assembly, Mountain States Mennonite Conference

~PRAYERS~

- ~The [Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery](#) invites BMC to join in prayer today for Indigenous land justice with the [Apache Stronghold](#). On March 21st, a federal appeals court will hear a pivotal case about Apache religious freedom that centers around a proposed copper mine, which would destroy the Western Apache sacred site of Oak Flat, *Chi’chil Bildagoteel*. Mennonite Church USA and Pacific Southwest Mennonite Conference signed onto a letter to the court in support of the Apache Stronghold, along with other religious groups. The Apache Stronghold are rallying all people of faith and conscience under the call of “One Drum, One Prayer, One Circle,” to seek unity in protection of Earth and in resistance to ongoing colonization. We join them in this prayer! [Here is a prayer you may use.](#)
- ~for The family of **Clair Brenneman**, husband of Faye, son Randy, and daughter Jina, who died after succumbing to the complications of Alzheimer’s. The Brenneman’s are members of Mountain Community Mennonite, in Palmer lake and have been active in Mennonite mission work for decades.
- ~from the **Hunsdorfers**: Please pray with us for Susan’s cousin Hildegrade, first cousin to Susan’s father and dear family. Hildegrade died I Augsburg Germany. Pray for all of our family, for her loss.
- ~for **Michelene Fast**, who would appreciate prayers for a successful surgery on Friday, March 24, at 11:30 a.m. Her medical team at Foothills Community Hospital will be operating on her spine to relieve her back and leg pain. Pray also for a full recovery.
- ~for **Pastor Randy**, who is giving leadership at the Queer Mennonite Visioning Retreat 2023, at Camp Friedenswald in Michigan. He travels to San Antonio March 23-25 to help lead worship and represent the Queer Constituency Group at meetings for conference and national leaders of Mennonite Church USA.

March Birthdays	
1 – Gus Dino Gouvas	7 – Ryan Loewer
2 – Pablo Ceres	16 – Nevin McKay Epp
2 – Nancy Wolff	23 – Cindy Firnhaber
3 – Grace Ceres	17 – Becky Sawatzky
4 – Laura Minter	30 – Kokesto Firnhaber
<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: Carole Suderman: 303-494-8527; Paul Classen: 316-217-2355; Joan Tice: 717-512-6591

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: Ivanna is in the office on Tuesday from 6:30a to 2:30p and Wednesday from 6a to 2p.

~ IN OUR COMMUNITY ~

MAUNDY THURSDAY COMMUNION AND FOOT WASHING, April 6, 6pm:
Singing, a simple meal, communion, foot washing and scripture readings. Please **sign up at the back of the sanctuary today if you plan to attend this special service of Holy Week.**



EASTER FLOWERS ORDERS: Boulder Mennonite Church will take orders for Easter flowers to be displayed at our Easter Service. You may take them home after the service. An “in honor of” list will be printed for the service. A sign-up sheet is located on the table by the door. Price for each plant will range from \$15-30.



NAOMI AND LYN KRAUSE’S NEW ADDRESS: Please make note of the Krause’s new address and phone numbers 01 Ivy Drive #403 North Newton, KS 67117. Both of their phone numbers have remained the same: Naomi: 925-808-5620/Lyn: 924-332-6616

SOUL BOX – KING SOOPER ART MEMORIAL: First Congregational UCC Boulder Soul Box Project is a collaboration of our congregation’s Gun Violence Prevention Ministry, McMane Arts Ministry and congregation members. You are invited to join us for an art memorial honoring those who lost their lives on March 22, 2021 in the King Sooper tragedy and

all victims and survivors impacted by this crisis of violence. March 21 – 9a-2p, March 22 – 9a-8p, March 23, 9a – 2p at First Congregational UCC Boulder: 1128 Pine Street Boulder CO 80302

~ IN THE LARGER COMMUNITY ~

MENNONITE CHURCH USA:

Mennonite Church USA hired Warren Yoder as the director of constituent engagement. In this new position, Yoder will help the denomination connect more fully with its member churches, organizations and individuals. Read more about his work [here](#).

#MennoCon23: Interested in volunteering at MennoCon23, Kansas City, Mo., July 3-6? Mennonite Church USA is seeking volunteers for special events, children's and junior youth programming, and more! Fill out a form [here](#).

Mennonite Church USA will host a webinar for more information about what to expect during MennoCon23 on March 30, 2023 at 7 pm ET/4 pm CT. Stay up to date on the latest convention news by subscribing to Peace Mail, the denomination's only news source [here](#).

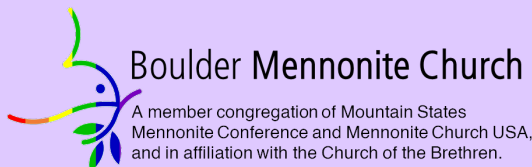
Menno Snapshots: The word “home” is something that Christians talk about frequently. But what happens when someone is experiencing physical homelessness? Kyle Nye, author of “Grace Can Lead Us Home: A Christian Call to End Homelessness,” the current CommonRead selection for the denomination, discusses topics around how Christians can respond to this call. [Read more here](#).

ECOLOGY TIP: Welcome Spring! How will you celebrate? Depending on our variable March weather, we could: Search for emerging greens of crocuses or mini-irises, walk barefoot in a park, plant an indoor herb garden, or read from the vast storehouse of poetry about spring!



Donate to BMC

(303) 443-3889 • www.bouldermennonite.org • churchadmin@bouldermennonite.org



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