



# Welcome to Boulder Mennonite Church

Sunday, February 11, 2024

*Transfiguration Sunday*

## A Service of the Word



*Transfiguration.*

Lakota icon by Fr. John Giuliani

*Moses, wrapped in buffalo hide, wears a Chief's feathered headdress, and carries an eagle wing as a sign of authority. Elijah the prophet carries the peace pipe. Jesus, transfigured as the Anointed One, wears a white Hudson blanket and is encircled by the emanation of celestial light*

**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.*



“As the Eternal One lives, and you live,” said Elisha, “I will not leave you.” So they departed together for Bethel. The disciples of the prophets in Bethel approached Elisha, asking, “Do you know that the Eternal One is going to take Elijah from you today?”

“Yes, I know,” Elisha replied, “now be silent.”

Then Elijah spoke, “Stay here, Elisha. the Eternal One is sending me to Jericho.” And Elisha replied, “As the Eternal One lives, and as you live, I will not leave you.”

So they went to Jericho. The disciples of prophets in Jericho approached Elisha, asking, “Do you know that the Eternal One is going to take Elijah from you today?”

“Yes, I know,” he said, “now be silent.” Then Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here. the Eternal One is sending me to the Jordan.”

“As the Eternal One lives and as you live,” said Elisha, “I will not leave you.” So the two of them walked on. Fifty disciples of prophets stood off at a distance, facing the place where Elijah and Elisha stopped at the Jordan. Elijah took his cloak, rolled it up and struck the water with it. The water divided to the right and to the left, and the two of them crossed over on dry land.

Once across, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?” Elisha replied, “Let me inherit two-thirds of your spirit,” he said.

“You ask a difficult thing,” Elijah said. “If you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours—otherwise not.” As they were walking along and chatting with each other, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. Elisha saw this and cried out, “My father! My father! The chariots and cavalry of Israel!” And Elisha saw nothing more. Then he took hold of his clothes and tore them apart.

## Gospel Reading

Mark 9.2-9

Jesus took Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. **And there Jesus was transfigured before their eyes; the clothes Jesus wore became dazzlingly white—whiter than any earthly bleach could make them.**

Elijah appeared to them, as did Moses, and the two were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. “Rabbi,” he said, “how wonderful it is for us to be here! Let us make three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah!” **Peter did not know what he was saying, so overcome were they all with awe.**

Then a cloud formed, overshadowing them; and there came a voice from out of the cloud: **“This is my Beloved, my Own; listen to this One.”** Then suddenly, when they looked around, they saw no one with them anymore—only Jesus.

As they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until after the Promised One had risen from the dead.

## Singing

Jesus on the mountain peak

301

## Now Testament Reading

*Listen to your life*, Frederick Buechner

If God speaks anywhere, it is into our personal lives that he speaks. Someone we love dies, say. Some unforeseen act of kindness or cruelty touches the heart or makes the blood run cold. We fail a friend, or a friend fails us, and we are appalled at the capacity we all of us have for estranging the very people in our lives we need the most. Or maybe nothing

extraordinary happens at all—just one day following another, helter-skelter, in the manner of day. We sleep and dream. We wake. We work. We remember and forget. We have fun and are depressed. And into the thick of it, or out of the thick of it, at moments of even the most humdrum of our days, God speaks. God speaks not just through the sounds we hear... but through the events in all their complexity and variety, through the harmonies and disharmonies and counterpoint of all that happens. ...[A]nd the reason God's words are impossible to capture in human language is of course that they are ultimately always incarnate words. They are words fleshed out in the everydayness no less than in the crises of our own experience.

Listen to your life. Listen to what happens to you, because it is through what happens to you that God speaks. It's in language that's not always easy to decipher, but it's there, powerfully, memorably, unforgettably.

## Reflection

## RESPONDING

**Singing** Open, Lord, my inward ear, vv. 1, 2, 4 548

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

## SENDING

**Announcements**

**\*Benediction**

**\*Sending Song** We are marching in the light of God 793



### **Resources used in worship:**

Scripture adapted from The Inclusive Bible, Priests for Equality; *Psalms for Praying*, Nan Merrill, Continuum Press

Cover art: <https://globalworship.tumblr.com/post/643240986205700096/the-transfiguration-of-jesus-lakota-icon>

Call to Worship: adapted from FOTW, Worship Companion, Year B, Vol 1, Westminster John Knox Press

Frederick Buechner, "Listen to your Life: daily meditations" 1992 HarperSanFrancisco; and [Ordained to write: An interview with Frederick Buechner](#) | [The Christian Century](#)

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

**Speaker:** Pastor Randy Spaulding  
**Worship Leader:** Susan Graber  
**Readers:** Michelene Fast, Becky Neumann  
**Music:** Jean McPherson, Pastor Randy  
**Tech Support:** Bruce Wheeler, Steve Voran  
**Greeters:** Carole Suderman, Mai Wheeler, Sheng Wheeler  
**Snacks:** Judy Classen  
**Moment for All Ages:** Karen Cox

February 4, 2024:

Attendance:

Offering: \$ 2,130

**TODAY at BMC**

- 9:30a      **Worship** and mingling  
11:00a      **Education Hour:** *Mennonites and Black History in Appalachia*. Ivanna Johnson, presenter. A joint adult/youth gathering. All are welcome.  
12:15p      **Book Discussion** Small Group  
2:00p      **Open House**, Elvira & Ed Glenn's new home

**THIS WEEK at BMC**

- 2/13      Introverts informal small group, 1p  
2/13      Singing small group, 6:30p  
2/14      Ash Wednesday – Season of Lent begins  
2/15      Bible study small group, 7p

**NEXT SUNDAY** – February 18: **First Sunday in the Season of Lent**

- 9:30am      Worship and mingling  
11:00am      Adult Education Hour: *The Future of Church and BMC*  
Youth Gathering: Room 112

**COMING UP**

- 2/16-18      High School Snow Camp @Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp  
2/18      1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent begins  
2/20      Introverts informal small group, 1p  
2/21      PCRC, 9a  
2/21      Centering prayer small group, 11a  
2/25      CHAN training @BMC, 11a  
2/25      Book discussion small group, 12:15p  
2/27      Introverts informal small group, 1p  
2/27      Singing small group, 6:30p  
3/2-3/3      MCC Central States board meeting in N. Newton

**~PRAYERS~**

~from **Laura Minter**: It has been one year since my concussion. I would like prayers for continued healing.

~from **Justin Mathis**: Comfort and peace for my cousin, **Chelsea**, who has been excommunicated from her church in St. Louis after filing for divorce from her abusive husband. They have 5 children ages 6 through 15.

~from **Susan Graber**: I ask for wisdom and luck for Tom (husband) and me as we consider purchasing a house in Grand Junction.

~from **Paul and Mary McKay**: We request prayers for Paul's nephew, **David Corley**, who is struggling with cancer. Prayers for our work with [EPIC program partners in Guatemala](#) and safety for us on the road.

February Birthdays	
2 - Michelene Fast 12 - Joel Sawatzky	12 - Katharina Sawatzky 18 - Naomi Krause

*Please let us know if we failed to acknowledge your special day. We want to celebrate you!*

## ~ANNOUNCEMENTS~

*Please call in or email ([info@bouldermennonite.org](mailto:info@bouldermennonite.org)) announcements by Thursday, 7:00am.*

**DEACONS:** Carole Suderman: 303-494-8527; Paul Classen: 316-217-2355; Cheri Krause: 510-227-9712

**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 ~

**OPEN HOUSE AT ELVIRA AND ED GLENN'S HOME:** In gratitude for all the BMC support we had in moving to our new home, we are having an open house at 1603 Lincoln Court in Longmont on Sunday, February 4, between 2 and 4 pm. To make it a service project too, please bring canned goods to be shared with [OUR Center](#) in Longmont and [Harvest of Hope](#).

**BMC SMALL GROUPS to BEGIN NEW CYCLE 2024-2026!** Small Groups are the heart of our community. They are where we grow even deeper in relationship with each other and discover ways to be Beloved Community. A new cycle begins in 2024. Your BMC Deacons invite you to consider leading or co-leading a group. See the document sent out by Pastor Randy, pick one up at the back of the sanctuary, or [click here](#). Interested? Speak to a Deacon or see Pastor Randy.



**LENT 2024: The Anointed One Among Us.** Lent is the season of the church year when we focus particular attention on relationships—with God and each other. What does it mean to be in covenant with God and the faith community? What happens when we fail (and we do!) to live up to our best selves? What does it mean that the Anointed One is among us, full of grace and

calling us beloved? May these next six weeks be meaningful and thoughtful moments in the life of our church. A [Lent-at-Home guide](#) and [Lent Calendar](#) are available. A few resources are available at the back of the sanctuary.

**COME SEE BMCer JUSTIN MATHIS PERFORM** with the [Denver Pops Orchestra](#), Saturday, February 17 at 4pm, Wheat Ridge United Methodist Church, 7530 West 38<sup>th</sup> Ave., Wheat Ridge, CO. It is a Celtic-themed concert with the Irish Band [Chancer's Hooley](#).

**IMMIGRANT HOSTING TRAINING:** Please come to the training with Denise Chang from the [Colorado Hosting Asylum Network](#) (CHAN) on **Sunday, February 25th from 11am-1pm**. Anyone who would like to participate in helping to host a family/couple at the church may attend this training. Please ask [Bruce Fast](#) or [Becky Neumann](#) if you have any questions.

## ~ IN THE LARGER COMMUNITY ~

**FROM MENNONITE ACTION:** We have been so moved to hear reflections from so many people who have taken public action together as a Mennonite community. Your stories of choosing to participate in our day of action in DC — why so many of you decided to make the trip to the nation's capital, and how it felt to lift your voice in song with hundreds of your fellow Mennonites who care deeply about peace and justice in Gaza — reminds us of the power and promise of this movement. We are powerful when we act together, rooted in our personal faith identities. Now, it's time for us to carry the work forward — for Gaza, for a just peace for all Palestinians and Israelis, and for the liberation of all people. There are important things you can do right now to continue our efforts for a ceasefire in our local communities. [Please consult our new local organizing toolkit for tips, tricks, and guidance for continuing to organize for peace in your own community.](#)

**VALENTINE'S DAY IN PALESTINE:** Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day coincide this year. Did you know that Valentine's Day is celebrated in Palestine? It's called [Eid el Hub](#)! While food and other physical humanitarian aid are essential for survival in every war zone, including Gaza, humanitarian groups have been struggling to get trucks in with supplies. There is a way to send digital aid to Palestinians. [Esims](#) [E SIM cards] are needed for communication in-country and beyond. The American Friends Service Committee [the Quaker MCC] says [this is a legitimate and good link for sending Esims to Gaza](#). Communication access can be lifesaving. **Please consider sending a valentine for Eid el Hub** as our neighbors are suffering tremendously. An act of compassion on Ash Wednesday is a meaningful way to begin the season of Lent.

**AMBS PASTORS & LEADERS 2024: STRATEGIES FOR PEACEMAKING:** Feb. 19–22. How do we find our calling as a peace church in the world today? This conference will focus on tools for peacemaking — building our capacity to tend to our inner work; address conflicts within our churches; and lead people to action on big issues of the day. Featured speaker: Betty Pries, PhD, CMed. Preachers: Nekeisha Alayna Alexis, MA, and Isaac Villegas, MDiv. Check out the list of workshops, and plan to join us in person or online! Register [here by Feb. 12](#).

**GET A SEMINARY EDUCATION AT A DISTANCE!:** Strengthen your leadership skills and deepen your faith — from wherever you are located — through Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary’s MA: Theology and Global Anabaptism (fully online); Master of Divinity Connect (with online and hybrid courses); or a Graduate Certificate program (fully or partially online). We offer generous need-based financial aid, matching grants and scholarships. [Apply today.](#)

**SAVE THE DATE:** Mountain States Mennonite Conference Assembly 2024 will be the weekend of July 26-28 at Beth-El in Colorado Springs. All are welcome!

## **MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE:**

**MCC’s Great Winter Warm-Up:** Throughout the month of February, compassionate people like you are giving the gift of warm comforters to those in need around the world through MCC’s Great Winter Warm-up. You can also sponsor a comforter in honor of your Valentine! [Click to learn more or call 1-888-563-4676](#)

## **MENNONITE CHURCH USA:**

**Mennonite Church USA Administration** has named Jolene VonGunten as executive administrative assistant, serving the Executive Board and staff, the Constituency Leaders Council, the Governance Council, the Joint Executive Committee, and Human Resources. She also is continuing to serve part-time as executive assistant and communications coordinator for Mennonite Education Agency. [Read more here.](#)

**ECOLOGY TIP:** One good idea for combining a spiritual practice with an ecological action is to observe an Eco-Sabbath one day (or a half day) each week. Set your phone, computer, TV, and other devices aside, turn off all unnecessary lights and appliances, and spend the day in a way that connects you with God or nature: going for a walk or hike, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, visiting someone who is sick or lonely, or simply reading, praying, or sitting in the silence. We may be surprised how dramatically this practice can rejuvenate our zest for living!



*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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