



# Boulder Footwash 2017

The Lamb's Ministry — [lambsmintistry.org](http://lambsmintistry.org)

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As Jesus said in the parable of the sheep and the goats on how we should act toward those in need: *“I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”* -Matthew 25:35-36

In downtown Boulder, right near the heart of Pearl Street activities, around the corner from the Boulder Farmer's Market, is the First Presbyterian Church. The weekend before Easter was not any typical weekend for the Church. Every year on “Palm Saturday” volunteers from across town join in one of the Church's largest events of the year: The Boulder Footwash.

The symbolism and humility of a foot wash, as Jesus did for his disciples, was what first drew me to volunteer on this day. It was such a sight to behold. As incredible and beautiful as that was, I quickly learned this celebration was so much more than I imagined. For 20 years, guests have been hosted not only for foot washing but also for haircuts, manicures, clothing, hygiene supplies and food. The day begins with prayer. That sets



the tone for the entire day and all that follows is certainly filled with the power of belief and hope. A breakfast with bagels and pastries is available in the morning. A home-style lunch is served around noon. Usually over 100 people attend!



I saw people deep in prayer while receiving a foot wash by a volunteer kneeling down before them to say, “I am here for you” in a powerful act of love. As I took a few photos to commemorate the day, I spoke to a visitor named Andy who exclaimed, “I love to have my picture taken!” Andy loves all things Disney. Another guest was getting his hair cut for the first time in 10 years. He made sure only the split ends were going away but admittedly was still a little nervous. As I took some more photos, a different guest said to be careful that his face might break the camera. I took a photo and assured him all camera parts were still functioning completely. He had a heart-warming smile. A group of high school students provided

manicures. They were eager and kind. One lady was so excited about her new nail color she showed them off to any and all around her. She had come up with the design herself of a little chick and rabbit for Easter. A few volunteers also joined in at the manicure table and got to spend some sincere time speaking with visitors. Health advice was available from registered nurses who supplied any insight necessary. Clothes and basic hygiene products were offered. All of this was accessible after passing the friendly greeters at the door, seeing bags and coats dropped off at the check station and grabbing a bagel and coffee. All of this was made possible by an amazing host of volunteers who committed their time, attention and most importantly their affection.



*“Share with them like Christ.”* -Jim Remnant, Head Volunteer/Organizer

The volunteer possibilities are discovered almost entirely by word of mouth. My co-worker informed me of this opportunity. Another young lady was here with her grandfather. She had helped out before over Christmas break earlier in the year. This day often brings new volunteers from all walks of life. Even with so many new people joining, everyone finds where to help and carries out their job well. It does not matter who you are, what your background is, or your religious affiliation. All work to make Christ's message of love the theme of the day. My first-time volunteering at this event, I must admit I was slightly nervous. Would I know what to say? How would I act? Honestly though, it is not that hard to make an impact and help people less fortunate than you. At the end of the day I realized that, in fact, the differences are not as big as one might think. Everyone is human and in search of similar securities.

This day is finalized with a full, hearty lunch and dessert scene. Everyone gathers in a great hall where servers bring out the cooked meal. Food is supplied by local donors. There was even a music band to bring more life and livelihood to an already flourishing event.

For the guests, word of mouth is also the way they find out about the Footwash. Some people come often. Others are new faces. It is very easy to see God in all the visitors. They are truly grateful and receptive. I have never heard the words “thank you” so much. I received several hugs as well. It quickly becomes a situation where I feel I am also the one being helped...I am the one being saved.

Here's my word of mouth to you. This special event is worth coming to join yourself. It is the power of prayer right before your eyes. Even though “Palm Saturday” has recently passed, there are many opportunities throughout the year to join as well. The love of Christ and many of the stories that are read in the Bible come to life on this day.

Happy Easter and God Bless!

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