



# Common Humanity: Unraveling the American Jesus

January 14, 2017

*C3-West Michigan's Inclusive Spiritual Connection is a vibrant, values-based Community in an evolving world that inspires and empowers members in their quest to live a good life. We, in turn, engage and support others in the work for justice and compassion everywhere.*

**Kent Dobson**  
Lead Teacher

**Malea Nicolet**  
Office Manager

**Marianne Fischer**  
Musician Coordinator

**Carley LaVercombe**  
Youth Mentor

**Karen Ryan**  
Children's Program

**Charles Gue**  
Sound Technician

**Steve Weideman**  
Sound Technician

**Carma Adams**  
Technical/C3 Podcast Intern

**Todd Kuypers**  
Facility Support

### Financial Update

*An AMAZING Year-End Jump bringing us into the positive going forward to 2018. Thank you to the generous donors who make C3 possible!*

### **December & YTD Totals/December 2017**

Income	Expense	Variance
\$40,804	\$11,663	\$29,140

### **YTD 2017**

Income	Expense	Variance
\$183,186	\$175,830	\$7,357

\*any community member wanting details may contact C3 Treasurer Andy Cawthon at [cawthon01@gmail.com](mailto:cawthon01@gmail.com)

## Welcome & News of the Community

*Welcome!*

*We are grateful to have you with us today.*

*We invite you to introduce yourself to a lobby host or volunteer.*

Joan Cook

## Gathering Music

Pay for What You Get

Jen Sygit  
(Sygit)

## Gathering Words

**One:** Do not be the judge of people; do not make assumptions about others.

**All:** **A person is destroyed by holding judgments about others.**

--The Buddha

## Children's Message

*At C3 we welcome and honor children as unique and precious souls. Each week we invite kids under twelve down front for a brief children's message. Afterward they are welcome to stay in the service or may follow the teacher downstairs for a safe and child-oriented experience.*

John Soukup

## Reading

Any meaningful discussion about religion must take at least two different dimensions of the religious experience into account. First, there is religion in its *exoteric* or "outer" form, largely consisting of the rituals, beliefs, and dogma of a particular tradition. This is what the majority of people think of when they hear the word "religion", often associating it with old myths, pre-rational thinking, and obsolete ideologies. Whenever you hear Richard Dawkins, Christopher Hitchens, or any of the other "new atheists" railing against God and religion, it is always this mythic exoteric form that they are attacking.

There is another side to religion which, by definition, is very often overlooked: the *esoteric* or "inner" core that invites us to actually experience divinity for ourselves. This esoteric core is almost entirely composed of vivid (and occasionally enigmatic) descriptions of spiritual devotion, transcendent truths, and timeless realities. But there is so much more than just poetry at the heart of religion—esoteric spirituality represents a very real technology of transformation, offering profoundly enriching practices of meditation and prayer to help us all experience these things for ourselves, rather than just taking it as a matter of faith.

--Ken Wilber

## **Participants**

### **Teacher**

Kent Dobson

### **Musician**

Jen Sygit

### **Welcome & News**

Joan Cook

### **Reader**

John Soukup

### **Meditation**

Cindy Dobrez

### **Children's Message**

TBA

### **Children's Volunteer**

Sally Alderink

### **Hosts: Gold Team**

Chris Platt

Steve Platt

Betty Porter

Jenny Roberts

Bob Burleigh

Jean Regester

### **Ushers: Gold Team**

Rod Van Abbema

Steve Platt

Keith Paluska

Martha Perko

Connie Farell

David Regester

The Green Host and Usher Teams  
serve next week.

### **Office Hours:**

Monday, January 15

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 17

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Friday, January 19

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

### **Kent's hours**

*Variable on site.\*Please call ahead to  
set an appointment with Kent if you wish  
to have time with him.*

## **Mindfulness Moment**

Please focus on stillness and the present moment.

## **Meditation**

*Each week, we have the privilege of hearing a meditation from a community  
member on our month's theme.*

## **Musical Reflection**

Love is Wild

Love is wild  
It won't be tamed  
It knows no bounds  
It's not ashamed  
It speaks up loud  
But never boasts  
Love makes amends  
Love makes the most

Love alone  
Can set men free  
Make a blind eye hear  
Make a deaf ear see  
Light up the dark  
Unlock the cage  
Love has no end  
It feels no age

Let love be our religion  
our holy word  
Let it be our temple  
Let the truth be heard  
The doors stand open  
So c'mon in  
All are welcome  
No love is sin

All are welcome  
no love is a sin

## **Teaching**

Unraveling the American Jesus: Karma and Non-Judgment

Cindy Dobrez

Jen Sygit  
(Sygit)

Kent Dobson

### Upcoming Speakers

January 21: Kerri Saunders  
January 28: Kent Dobson  
February 4: Michael DeWilde  
February 11: Kent Dobson

### Upcoming Announcers

January 21: Rod Van Abbema  
January 28: Valerie Engeltjes  
February 4: Bob Kleinheksel  
February 11: Rod Van Abbema

### Upcoming Musicians

January 21: Olivia Millerschin  
January 28: Channing and Quinn  
February 4: Don Julin Acoustic Trio  
February 11: TBA

### Upcoming C3 Kids' Time

January 21: Shannon McMaster  
January 28: Cindy Dobrez  
February 4: Kevin Blanding  
February 11: Cindy Anderson

### Upcoming Readers

January 21: Marlene Sonderfan  
January 28: Bill Weideman  
February 4: Keith Laidler  
February 11: Kathy Tosa

### Upcoming Meditations

January 21: Erica Neeley  
January 28: Charity McMaster  
February 4: Rod Van Abbema  
February 11: Wayne Johnson

### Upcoming C3 Kids Volunteers

January 21: Jen Snideman  
January 28: Wayne Johnson  
February 4: Charity McMaster  
February 11: TBA

## Shared Responsibility

*C3 is a community-led organization that depends on your generous donations. Your donations and volunteer support keep the Sunday experience vibrant and help us do important work in the community. Your donations in the Shared Responsibility basket, through our website, or via direct deposit are gratefully received. Please consider helping us take the next steps in our growing community.*

C3 Community

Smell the Flowers

Jen Sygit  
(Sygit/Allen)

Closing Remarks

Joan Cook

## Affirmation

**One:** How people treat you is their karma.

**All:** **How you react is yours.**

--Wayne Dyer

Closing Music

The Break of Day

Jen Sygit  
(Davis/Allen)

**Music News:** Please welcome Jen Sygit back to C3! Jen's stunning – often playful – lyrics, engaging melodies and unique, throaty voice have attracted fans across the state and the country. A multi-instrumentalist, Jen plays acoustic and electric guitar, banjo, dobro, piano, trombone, and keyboard. She can be seen playing solo as well as part of the all-female roots band Stella! and the 5-piece band Lincoln County Process with C3 friend Sam Corbin. As always, please support our musicians by stopping by the musicians' table after the Gathering.

**NEXT WEEK:** Olivia Millerschin!

**C3 Vision:** *C3-West Michigan's Inclusive Spiritual Connection is a vibrant, values-based Community in an evolving world that inspires and empowers members in their quest to live a good life. We, in turn, engage and support others in the work for justice and compassion everywhere.*

**C3 Mission:** to enrich and empower the lives of all people in body, mind, and spirit.

**Our Community evolves and grows by:**

Welcoming all who share our vision, regardless of their path through life;  
Encouraging and supporting the exchange of ideas as a means of personal growth;  
Taking responsibility for our actions in the Community and the world;  
Accepting one another unconditionally;  
Participating in the life of the Community;  
Honoring the dignity of every individual;  
Promoting ourselves and our mission, vision, and values  
through selected media and through our activities in our local communities.

**We engage the greater community by:**

- Participating in social justice programs, projects, and education;
- Supporting programs and initiatives to create diverse, integrated communities;
- Encouraging civil discourse and learning with interested citizens on issues of importance for the local communities;
- Acting to ensure a sustainable natural and social environment, and;
- Asserting that our common humanity is more important than any individual differences.

**C3 Values: These values guide us, and challenge us to define and live a good life. We value and celebrate:**

- COMMON HUMANITY. We respect the dignity and worth of every individual.
- DIVERSITY. We affirm all people and embrace all genders, sexual orientations, and ethnicities.
- OPEN INQUIRY. We pursue the free exchange of ideas, explore the lessons of science, philosophy, and the creative arts, and undertake independent spiritual journeys.
- COMPASSIONATE ACTION. We strive to safeguard and extend human rights, peace, and social justice, locally and globally, as individuals and jointly with others.
- CARE FOR THE EARTH. We care for our Earth home with mindfulness and responsibility for ourselves and for future generations.
- WELL-BEING. We promote wholeness and wellness of mind, body, and spirit, recognizing our self responsibility, interrelatedness, and interdependence.

**Let's be in touch!**

C3 West Michigan's Inclusive Spiritual Connection  
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