



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

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
950 Taylor Avenue, Suite 210, Grand Haven
616.842.1985

www.c3westmichigan.org
facebook.com/c3xchange

email: frontdesk@c3westmichigan.org

Board of Trustees

Patti Baldus
Andy Cawthon
Jane Horton
Kathy Humphrey
Wayne Johnson
Charity McMaster
Hank Nash
Mark Smith
Margaret Willey