



# Open Inquiry

## What is the Good Life?

April 15, 2018

*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*

**Mary Crouse**  
*Nursery Care*

**Charles Gue**  
*Sound Technician*

**Steve Weideman**  
*Sound Technician*

**Carma Adams**  
*Technical/C3 Podcast*

**Todd Kuypers**  
*Facility Support*

**Financial Update**  
*Thank you to the generous donors who make C3 possible!*

### March & YTD Totals/March 2018

Income	Expense	Variance
\$23,262	\$16,522	\$6,740

Income	Expense	Variance
\$46,922	\$59,184	-\$12,262

## 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.*

Margaret Willey

## Gathering Music

Up North

I wish I could call you up  
Prove I'm made of sterner stuff  
I thought by now I'd feel grown up  
But that is not the way of love

I'll just sit and watch the fog roll in  
Turning everything into grey  
I hope it brings the kind of wisdom that  
Will turn my hair the same someday

Make my body magnetized  
So your compass always points to mine  
Instead of all this back and forth  
For now I'll just keep heading North

Where I'll just sit and watch the fog roll in  
Turning everything into grey  
I hope it brings the kind of wisdom that  
Will turn my hair the same someday

Channing and Quinn

## Gathering Words

**One:** You should not go on clinging to your childhood.  
**All:** **You are no longer of an age to do that.**

---Athena to Telemachus  
in *The Odyssey*

Chris Platt

\*any community member wanting details may contact C3 Treasurer Mark Smith at [treasurer@c3westmichigan.org](mailto:treasurer@c3westmichigan.org)

## **Participants**

### **Teacher**

Kent Dobson

### **Musicians**

Channing and Quinn

### **Welcome & News**

Margret Willey

### **Reader**

Chris Platt

### **Meditation**

Erica Neely

### **Children's Message**

Charity McMaster

### **Children's Volunteer**

Karen Cotton

### **Hosts: White Team**

Patti Baldus

Chrys Moelter-Gray

Debbie Gianetti

Kathy Smith

Mark Smith

### **Ushers: White Team**

Jerry VanLeeuwen

Barb VanLeeuwen

David Dean

Jane Horton

Dan Horton

David Lewis

Barb McNab

The Blue Host and Usher Teams  
serve next week.

### **Office Hours:**

Monday, April 16

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

Wednesday, April 18

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

Friday, April 20

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

### **Kent's hours**

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

## **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.*

## **Readings**

Life is difficult. This is a great truth, one of the greatest truths. It is a great truth because once we truly see this truth, we transcend it. Once we truly know that life is difficult – once we truly understand and accept it – then life is no longer difficult. Because once it is accepted. The fact that life is difficult no longer matters.

--M. Scott Peck  
*The Road Less Traveled*

I live my life in widening circles  
that reach out across the world.  
I may not complete this last one  
But I give myself to it.

I circle around God, around the primordial tower  
I've been circling for thousands of years  
And I still don't know: am I a falcon,  
A storm, or a great song?

--Rainer Maria Rilke  
*Book of Hours I-2*

## **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**

It's All Right

Charity McMaster

Chris Platt

Erica Neely

Channing and Quinn

### Upcoming Speakers

April 22: Kent Dobson  
April 29: Abishek Ghosh  
May 6: Kent Dobson  
May 13: Kent Dobson

### Teaching

The Good Life: Big Dreams, Suffering, and Widening Circles

Kent Dobson

### Upcoming Announcers

April 22: Joan Cook  
April 29: Valerie Engeltjes  
May 6: Cathy Saurman  
May 13: David Dean

### 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

### Upcoming Musicians

April 22: Watching for Foxes  
April 29: Kathy LaMar and Bob Van Stee  
May 6: Mark Lavengood  
May 13: Karla Kane

### Upcoming C3 Kids' Time

April 22: Mary Ackerson  
April 29: John Soukup  
May 6: Patricia Reilly  
May 13: TBA

### Musical Celebration

Slow Burn

Channing and Quinn

### Upcoming Readers

April 22: Steve Platt  
April 29: Keith Paluska  
May 6: David Lewis  
May 13: Jean McCabe

### Closing Remarks

Margaret Willey

### Upcoming Meditations

April 22: David Dean  
April 29: Joan Cook  
May 6: Charity McMaster  
May 13: Wayne Johnson

### Affirmation

One: The unexamined life  
All: **is not worth living.**

---Socrates

### Upcoming C3 Kids Volunteers

April 22: Shannon McMaster  
April 29: Jen Sniderman  
May 6: TBA  
May 13: TBA

### Closing Music

Missing Parts of Me

Channing and Quinn

#### **Music News:**

C3 favorites **Channing & Quinn** join us this Sunday! As many of you know, Channing and Quinn moved to West Michigan a few years ago after almost 10 years in Nashville. You can see/hear Quinn on GRLive, a live music lunch time program from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. every Thursday at The BOB in Grand Rapids (listen at 88.1 FM). Channing tours with The Verve Pipe in addition to playing Channing and Quinn shows! As always, please support our musicians by stopping by the musicians' table in the lobby after the Gathering.

NEXT WEEK: **Watching for Foxes**

**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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616.842.1985

[www.c3westmichigan.org](http://www.c3westmichigan.org)  
[facebook.com/c3xchange](https://facebook.com/c3xchange)

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**Board of Trustees**

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