



9 a.m. **Pre-Talk & Awakenings**  
 10 a.m. **Gathering**  
 10 a.m. **C3 Kids** with **Miss Mary** and volunteer **Eleanor Hills**  
 11 a.m. **Talk Back**

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*Red Team Hosts:* **Yvonne Olmsted, Sarah Jacobs,** with **Mark & Kathy Smith** and **Ellie Williams**  
*Red Team Ushers:* **Tom Weber** with **Sally & Gordy Alderink**  
*Welcome Table:* **Jeff Crandle**  
*Next Week:* **White Team**

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*C3 Board of Trustees*  
*Chair:* **Sally Alderink**  
*Vice-Chair:* **Teresa Colbry**  
*Secretary:* **Valerie Engeltjes**  
*Treasurer:* **Shannon McMaster**  
*Trustees:* **Beth Buelow, Andy Cawthon, Kim Crozier, Tom Edwards, Kathy Humphrey, Wayne Johnson,** and **Rod Van Abbema**

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**Next Week!**  
*Speaker:* **Kent Dobson**  
*Musician:* **Loren Johnson**  
*Meditation:* **Beth Buelow**  
*Gathering Host:* **Sandy Kate Stephens**  
*Kids' Volunteer:* **TBA**



[c3westmichigan.org/support](http://c3westmichigan.org/support)

**Sunday, September 17, 2023**  
**Setting Free: From Grief to Gratitude and a Generative Generosity**

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*Speaker and Musician:* **Brie Stoner** is a writer, musician, and songwriter. Her writing has been featured in *The Call To Unite: Voices of Hope and Awakening*, a book featuring inspirational voices such as Oprah, Tim Shriver, and Elizabeth Gilbert. Brie launched her podcast *Unknowing* in 2021, exploring the spiritual path of creative possibilities with various authors, activists and artists. As a musician, Stoner has worked with producers Jay Bennett (Wilco) and most recently David Vandervelde, who produced her new album.

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 Music: **Brie Stoner**  
 Gathering Host: **Rod Van Abbema**  
 Music: **Brie Stoner**  
 Meditation: **Charity McMaster**  
 Moment of Silence  
 Reading/Teaching: **Brie Stoner**

What creative force sites itself in our heartbreak in tenderness that can be the beginning of giving ourselves away courageously to this life?

No, no, there is no going back.  
 Less and less you are  
 that possibility you were.  
 More and more you have become  
 those lives and deaths  
 that have belonged to you.  
 You have become a sort of grave  
 containing much that was  
 and is no more in time, beloved  
 then, now, and always.  
 And you have become a sort of tree  
 standing over a grave.  
 Now more than ever you can be  
 generous toward each day  
 that comes, young, to disappear  
 forever, and yet remain  
 unaging in the mind.  
 Every day you have less reason  
 not to give yourself away.  
 -Wendell Berry, *There Is No Going Back*

What is required of us is that we love the difficult and learn to deal with it. In the difficult are the friendly forces, the hands that work on us. Right in the difficult we must have our joys, our happiness, our dreams: there against the depth of this background, they stand out, there for the first time we see how beautiful they are.  
 - Rainer Maria Rilke

Music: **Brie Stoner**  
 Gathering Host: **Rod Van Abbema**  
 Music: **Brie Stoner**



### **Autumn Kickoff Bonfire and Social on September 24**

Dress for an evening outside, rain or shine, next Sunday 6 p.m. at Mulligan's Hollow Ski Lodge, right next to the Tri-Cities YMCA off Harbor Drive. We have plenty of room inside and out, and it's ADA accessible. You can drive up to the lodge to drop off but all parking is in the YMCA parking lot. Please sign up at the Outreach Table this morning specifically for what food you are bringing. BYOBeverage—alcohol is allowed, and bring your place setting, utensils and cups.

### **C3 Summer Fundraiser - Pledges Now Due**

If you pledged to one of the bikers or swimmer for the Summer Fundraiser, please connect with that person to learn their final accomplishment and redeem your pledge. Checks should be made out to *C3 West Michigan, with Biking (or Swimming) for C3* in the memo line.

### **Small Bites Providers Needed**

Some of our very loyal Small Bites providers would like a well-deserved break. Would you be willing to bring Small Bites (homemade or purchased) on either the first or the second Sunday of the month? If so, please contact Patti Baldus. The new roster is being prepared for October 1. And thank you to both those who will be taking a break and those who will continue to bring treats!

### **Save These Dates!**

Be sure to mark your calendars for **October 22** and **November 5**. **October 22** is Kent's last Sunday as our lead teacher. Plan to stay after the Gathering for a special time to celebrate his six years with us and send him off with our thanks and good wishes.

Because of our recently approved bylaws changes, our annual meeting will be held on November 5 immediately following the Gathering. At this time we'll reaffirm our commitment to the C3 community, elect new Board of Trustees members, and learn more about what's going on in many different areas of C3.

You won't want to miss either of these special Sundays!

### **Welcome, Eli!**

Welcome to Eli Colbry (son of Teresa), who has taken Claude's place as our set-up and tear-down person! Eli is a busy young man—he works at Morningstar Café, is taking classes at GRCC in Computer Science/Networking, and now will be here at C3 each Sunday morning. Eli has low vision, so if he doesn't recognize you right away, he's not ignoring you!

### **C3 Logo T-Shirts**

If you pre-ordered a new C3 logo t-shirt and didn't pick it up last week, please pick it up today at the Outreach table! If you missed ordering a t-shirt, add your name to the sign-up sheet. Once we have 25 names, we will take pre-orders again.

### **Board of Trustees Election Nomination Period**

The nomination period for Board of Trustees candidates is now open and runs through **October 1**. Anyone interested in running for office should contact a current board member. Please encourage other potential candidates to apply.

### **Week 3@C3 for September**

This is the last Sunday we are collecting for Community enCompass - Sacred Suds. We will collect laundry items and socks for them today, September 17, and then deliver the items to Sacred Suds. Thanks for donating!

### **Sunday Dinner Group**

We'll visit Ted's in Spring Lake today at 5:30 p.m. Please sign up at the Membership Table so we can make an accurate reservation.

### **C3 Book Club and Friends**

We meet this Tuesday, September 19, at 6 p.m. at The Bookman to discuss *The One in a Million Boy* by Monica Wood. Please join us!

### **Adopt-A-Highway**

Our fall Adopt-A-Highway cleanup is **Saturday, September 30**. The cleanup is from **10 a.m. to noon** and we need lots of volunteers! (If necessary, the rain date is **Sunday, October 1**, after the Gathering). Sign up at the Outreach table or via email ([tedwards@designallegro.com](mailto:tedwards@designallegro.com)).

### **Vigil for Peace and Justice**

Our vigil continues through November each **Saturday** from **noon to 1 p.m.** along Washington Avenue at Central Park.

### **C3 Men's Club**

C3 Men's Group meets from **7 to 8:30 p.m. on Tuesdays** at the American Legion Hall on Harbor Drive.

### **Community Care and Concern**

Contact: **Cheryl Van Abbema, 616-402-3108; Mike and Charlotte Rozich, 517-918-5483 or 517-918-5464.**

**Barb Van Leeuwen** is undergoing the toughest part of her treatment for oral cancer now. Cards or notes may be sent to Barb via text or email or at home: 2669 Weatherby Hills Drive SE, Grand Rapids 49546.

### **Sarah Jacobs' mother, Marie**

**(Helmerts) Bahlke**, passed away peacefully on August 24, at 103. A Celebration of her life will be September 23, 3 to 5 p.m. at Betzler Life Story in Kalamazoo. Cards to Sarah: 7091 Juniper Court, Norton Shores, MI 49009.

**Jean Regester** had surgery on a broken left ankle on September 11. She anticipates being homebound for several weeks and welcomes notes, texts and prearranged visits. If you visit and can take something, check to see if she needs a single-serving supper for that day. Her address is 17541 Park Place Circle, Spring Lake, MI 49456 / 616-822-1414 / [jmreeg@comcast.net](mailto:jmreeg@comcast.net)