



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**

.....  
*Blue Team Hosts:* **Mark & Kathy Smith, Cheryl Van Abbema, Tom Edwards**  
*Blue Team Ushers:* **Kim Crozier, Karen Fredriksen, Phil Leech, Beth Buelow**  
*Welcome Table:*  
**Dick Kamischke**  
*Next Week:* **Gold Team**

.....  
*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**

.....  
**Next Week!**  
*Speaker:* **Kent Dobson**  
*Musician:* **Kyle Rasche**  
*Meditation:* **Leslie Newman**  
*Gathering Host:*  
**Beth Buelow**  
*Kids' Volunteer:*  
**Char Kole**



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

**Sunday, October 1, 2023**

***We Have Questions: What's the Point of a Religious Life?***

.....  
*Speaker:* **Kent Dobson** has been the lead teacher at C3 since 2017. He's also in the guide-in-training program at Animas Valley Institute in Colorado, an organization specializing in wilderness intensives. Kent leads Israel study tours, wilderness retreats, and has his own podcast called *Hints and Guesses*.

*Musician:* **Matt Gabriel** is a singer/songwriter who has spent over a decade writing and performing music around the country—the quality of folk and blues you would expect from an artist who grew up between Chicago and Detroit.

.....  
 Music: **Matt Gabriel**  
 Gathering Host: **David Dean**  
 Music: **Matt Gabriel**  
 Meditation: **Nelleke Knarr**  
 Moment of Silence  
 Reading/Teaching: **Kent Dobson**

One day the earth opens her mouth  
 And swallows you whole, and God turns  
 God's back.  
 If you look back, you are turned to salt.  
 And God twiddles God's thumbs  
 And disappears into the cloud  
 You know nothing about.  
 It takes a long time, this  
 Terrible weaning, the wolf mother  
 Who leaves you sucking air instead of milk.  
 No one comes looking for you,  
 Unlike Elijah, whose friends  
 Travel from mountain to mountain  
 In search of their friend.  
 You are so far gone, even  
 The voice of your lover is  
 Like an old voicemail you never  
 Managed to delete.  
 I, for one, wish this on no one,  
 Except some of you,  
 The ones I'd like to kiss  
 Like Judas, and betray you,  
 So you can feel again how you've  
 Betrayed yourself.  
 Just remember, if this happens to you,  
 Do not fall in love with your stories.  
 Do not cling to any images.  
 Do not pray, unless you must.  
 Do not blame.  
 Do not run.  
 -Kent Dobson

Music: **Matt Gabriel**  
 Gathering Host: **David Dean**  
 Music: **Matt Gabriel**



### Board of Trustees Election Nomination Period

The nomination period for Board of Trustees candidates **ends today, on October 1**. Anyone interested in running for office should contact a current board member this morning!

### Autumn Kickoff Bonfire and Social

Last Sunday evening almost 50 people gathered for good food, great conversation, bonfire gazing, and the Cornhole Tournament! Winners were Mary Ellen Mika and Gordy Alderink. The McMasters were champion bonfire builders; the food was abundant and fabulous, the weather was perfect, and the deer who watched from the sidelines were both entertained and entertaining! Many thanks to Joyce and David for organizing this fun event.

### Looking Back and Looking Forward

On **October 22**, we'll look back over the past six years with Kent as we will miss him as he and his family move to Georgia. After the Gathering, we'll share memories, thanks, and—of course! —food to commemorate his time with us. On **November 5**, we'll look forward as we hold our annual Community Meeting. This is a wonderful opportunity to join others as we plan C3's future by electing new Board of Trustees members, approving the 2024 budget, and hearing about the activities going on behind the scenes. Make plans now to stay around after the Gathering for these two special events that celebrate our history and our future!

### Summer Fundraiser Results

Thanks to the fundraising riders (**Gordy Alderink, Andy Cawthon, Ira Engeltjes, and John Leitner**), the swimmer (**Chrys M-Gray**), and **all who pledged**, over \$4000 was raised! The exact figure will be shared after the September financial report is completed.

### Adopt-A-Highway

Thanks to everyone who volunteered for our pick up yesterday. Your help was very much appreciated!

### Week 3@C3 for October

We will be collecting for the **Muskegon Rescue Mission's Thanksgiving Baskets Project**. Needed for the baskets are:

- Boxed stuffing
- Boxed potatoes (mashed)
- Canned corn
- Canned green beans
- Boxed macaroni & cheese
- Boxed brownie or cake mixes

Muskegon Rescue Mission prepares to give away 1,000 Thanksgiving meal baskets. These items will be collected on the **first three Sundays in October**.

### Small Bites

A **huge thank you** to **Teresa Colbry, Cheryl Van Abbema, and Kathy Smith** for being such generous Small Bites volunteers. As they step away, we welcome two new volunteers: **Cindy Van Ittersum** and **Betty Porter** have agreed to provide goodies on the first Sunday of the month (Cindy), and the second (Betty). We could use a couple more regulars, and some who'd be willing to sub when needed. Let Patti Baldus know if you're willing! Thanks!

### Sunday Dinner Group

Sign up at the Membership Table to join fellow C3ers for a meal at The Kirby this evening at 5:30p.m.

### C3 Book Club and Friends

We next meet on **October 17**, to discuss *The Sun Does Shine: How I Found Life and Freedom on Death Row* by Anthony Ray Hinton. The book for November is *The Henna Artist* by Alka Joshi. Start thinking of three books to suggest for 2024, when we meet for our holiday party and book selection process in December.

### 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.**

**Lynne Deur** is undergoing multiple procedures to receive a cochlear implant. She and Jean will remain in Michigan until she has the implant and is comfortable with it. Cards can be sent to Lynne at 18332 N. Shore Estates, Spring Lake, MI 49456.

**Jean Regester** continues to recuperate at home, but is still unable to move around much or stand for very long. A Meal Train has been created to assist with evening meals. If you're able and willing to help, check it out at <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/dk80w4>. Her address is: 17541 Park Place Circle, Spring Lake, MI 49456 / 616-822-1414 / mreeg@comcast.net

**Barb Van Leeuwen's** treatment continues. Cards or notes may be sent to Barb via text or email or at home: 2669 Weatherby Hills Drive SE, Grand Rapids 49546.

A donation to C3 was made in memory of **Marie Bahlke** (Sarah Jacob's mother) by Mark and Kathy Smith.