



Sunday, May 4, 2025

Sacred Earth
Week 4: Luminous Beings Are We

9 a.m. Pretalk
10 a.m. Gathering
10 a.m. C3 Kids with Miss Mary and volunteer Abby Black
11:00 a.m. Talk Back

Lead Teacher: Brad Ruggles (he/him) joined C3 as Lead Teacher in May 2024. He is a former pastor that deconstructed and later left the faith he was raised in after 18 years in ministry. He and his wife Lisa enjoy adventuring and traveling with their two adult daughters. Brad's interests are diverse and include backpacking, meditation, breathwork, yoga, sport kiting, photography, and cold plunging.

Red Team Hosts: Yvonne Olmsted, Sarah Jacobs, Rita & Steve Coutre, Char Zoet
Red Team Ushers: Tom Webber, Joyce & Andy Cawthon, Bob Wassink
Welcome Table: Jeff Crandle
Next Week: White Team

Musician: Annie Bacon is a writer and songwriter living in Ann Arbor, Michigan (via Maine and San Francisco). With ANNIE BACON + HER OSHEN she merges a literary writing style and folk-rock Americana sound to create rich and emotionally complex music. Bacon emerges from a loss-filled five years with 2024's Storm, praised as "a landmark release" (Glide). She also composed a folk opera, co-created a full-length musical, and is working on a novel on themes of motherhood and war.

Music: Annie Bacon

C3 Board of Trustees:
Chair: Teresa Colbry
Vice Chair: Kathy Humphrey
Treasurer: Andy Cawthon
Secretary: Tod Wyn
Trustees:
Tabitha Blanski
Karen Cotton
Kim Crozier
Bill Haug
Wayne Johnson

Gathering Host: Chrys Moelter-Gray

Music: Annie Bacon

Meditation: Karri Absenger

Moment of Silence

Reading/Teaching: Brad Ruggles

Brad Ruggles,
Lead Teacher
brad@c3westmichigan.org

For my ally is the Force, and a powerful ally it is. Life creates it, makes it grow. Its energy surrounds us and binds us. Luminous beings are we, not this crude matter. You must feel the Force around you; here, between you, me, the tree, the rock, everywhere, yes.
- Master Yoda

Shannon McMaster,
Executive Director
smcmaster@
c3westmichigan.org

When we try to pick out anything by itself we find that it is bound fast by a thousand invisible cords that cannot be broken, to everything in the universe.
-- John Muir

Next Week -
Teacher: Ruth Zwald
Music: Stanley & Quiggle
Gathering Host: Valerie Engeltjes
Meditation: Nelleke Knarr
Kids' Volunteer: Sally Alderink
Setup Volunteer: Tod Wyn

Humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together. All things connect.
- Chief Seattle

Music: Annie Bacon

Gathering Host: Chrys Moelter-Gray

Music: Annie Bacon





C3 Kids Fundraiser

The C3 Kids' fundraiser was a success! They raised a total of \$412 for The People's Center! We're so proud of them for this self-guided project from concept, to research, ideas to implementation. This has been a big deal for them. And you helped fulfill that sense of purpose for them. Thank you.

News from the Board of Trustees

At the April meeting, the BOT continued to move the real estate discussion forward, and after the Gathering last week, Shannon announced that the address under consideration is 1045 Columbus Avenue in Grand Haven. The Board also approved adding a paid resource to assist with the children's programming.

Check Out Our New Member Directory!

After years with Wild Apricot, we have transitioned to a new member directory service, Member Planet. We expect a few hiccups, so please feel free to reach out to Shannon (smcmaster@c3westmichigan.org) with questions.

C3 Community Information Meeting on May 18

Plan to attend a C3 Community Meeting tentatively scheduled after the Gathering on May 18, probably in place of Talk Back.

Week 3@C3: Humanity for Prisoners

During the month of May, we are collecting funds for **Humanity for Prisoners** (HFP), a nonprofit based in Spring Lake, whose motto is *Action with Compassion*. HFP offers one-on-one guidance and compassionate support to people in prison. Find more information about HFP on the Week 3@C3 table or on their website, www.humanityforprisoners.org. Giving Sundays are May 4, 11 and 18. Checks, cash, credit card contributions are welcome. Include notation: Week3@C3 HFP.

A *Thank You* was received from Every Woman's Place (EWP) for our donation.

Earth Day Celebration

C3 sponsored and participated in the Earth Day Celebration last Saturday at the Temple Lounge in Spring Lake. We highlighted our tree-planting and outdoor clean-up efforts, and our Sacred Earth series. Lots of people planted sunflowers in paper cups to take home!

Plant a Tree for Earth Day!

Join our Earth Day 2025 tree-planting effort—in Ferrysburg this time! See Rod or Betty today at the Outreach table to donate by check (payable to C3; note "Plant Up" and your email, so we can notify you where your tree is). To donate by credit card, call Carol Takas at Selby Tax & Accounting (616-613-3222) and mention "Plant Up and Fly Right". An \$80 donation offsets the carbon from a flight by planting a tree that removes 2,000 pounds of carbon dioxide over five years. You can also adopt a tree in someone's honor—names will be recognized at our fall ceremony. This campaign runs through May 25.

Join the Parks Clean-Up Blitz

Sign up at the Outreach table today to help with our Parks Clean-Up Blitz at Tanglefoot and Mill Point Parks in Spring Lake on Saturday, May 17, from 10 a.m. to noon.

Cardboard Chaos: Join the C3 Flotation Nation!

We're (questionably) racing in the Grand Haven Cardboard Boat Race on Saturday, July 26, at 1:30 p.m. Armed with duct tape, cardboard, and zero nautical wisdom, we need bold folks to help build or pilot our (soggy?) masterpiece. Want in? Email brad@c3westmichigan.org before we come to our senses.

Sunday Supper Group

The Sunday Supper Group meets today at 5:30 p.m. at The Kirby in Grand Haven. The sign-up sheet is on the Membership Table.

C3 Men's Group

The C3 Men meet from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on Tuesdays in the Choir Room at St. John's Episcopal Church. For questions, call Phil Koster at 616-402-1751.

Women's Journey

Our next meeting is May 19, 6:30 p.m., at 815 Ver Hoeks Street. All C3 women are invited.

Join the Vigil for Peace and Justice

Bring a sign (or borrow one of ours and stand with us and community folks to support the rights, freedoms, and dignity of all people, every Saturday noon to 1 p.m. on Washington Avenue at Central Park. Questions? Contact Chrys at 248-217-3879 or cgmgray@mac.com

C3 Book Club and Friends

We will meet at The Bookman at 6 p.m. on May 20, to choose our reading list for next year. Bring two or three suggestions. Questions? Kathy Tosa (616-510-1250) - katherine.tosa@gmail.com or Joyce Cawthon joycevcawthon@gmail.com

Mindful Living Group

The next session of the Mindful Living Group is scheduled for May 21, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., but please note that the location has been changed for this month to the Spring Lake District Library.

Community Care and Concern

Contact: **Cheryl Van Abbema, 616-402-3108**

Jean King was admitted to Holland Hospital on Wednesday morning. Cards may be sent to 11681 152nd Street, West Olive, MI 49460.

Chuck Stephens is at home recuperating after a hospital stay due to respiratory issues.