



Center for Spiritual Growth

225 East Exchange Street
Spring Lake, Michigan 49456
616 842 1985 p
616 842 3476 f

C3 is an open and affirming spiritual community. We are grateful to have you with us today. We invite you to introduce yourself to a staff member or Ministry Council host. Welcome!

Ian Lawton

*Executive Minister, Teaching and
Theological Inquiry*

Bob Kleinheksel

Minister of Care and Community Life

Ted Poulton

Director of Administration

Brad Vander Ark

Audio/Visual and Online Ministry

Andrea Dumbrell

Office Manager

Roger Schuring

Facility Maintenance

Jacqueline Rose Fisher

Director of Fine Arts

Kim Bazy

Children's Ministry

Barb Kelly

Nursery Care

Brian Drabczyk

Sound Technician

Office Reception Hours

Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Building Hours

Monday - Thursday 7:00 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Evolution Sunday Sunday, February 7, 2010

*You are welcome
Whoever you are,
Whatever your background,
Wherever you are on your journey,
You are welcome*

Gathering Music

Sailor's Hornpipe
Suite for Woodwind Quintet 1st Movement, Allegro

The Lafayette Ensemble

*arr. Thackray
Robert Washburn*

Welcome and News of the Community

Musical Inspiration

A Mysterious and Melodic Piece

The Lafayette Ensemble

K.D. Mueller

Gathering Words

I can hear the sizzle of a newborn star and know that anything of meaning, of fierce magic, is emerging here. I am witness to flexible eternity, the evolving past. And I know we will live forever, as dust or breath in the face of stars, in the shifting pattern of winds.

- Joy Harjo

One: May our brief, fragile lives build on the work of those who went before us,

All: Let it all happen. No time is final.

One: May we create a sustainable foundation for those who follow us,

All: Let it all happen. No age is final.

One: May we stretch our consciousness with open minds, and a sense of humble curiosity,

All: Let it all happen. No belief is final.

One: May we have courage in uncertain times,

All: Let it all happen. No mood is final.

One: May we recognize new beginnings in what seem to be endings,

All: Let it all happen. No feeling is final.

One: We are the universe becoming conscious,

All: Let it all happen. Breathe deeply and live now.

Participants:

Teacher

Ian Lawton

Liturgist

Bob Kleinheksel

Musicians

Kathie Bolthouse, Oboe

Dick Tindall, Clarinet

Anita Lauterberg, Flute

Allen Beck, Horn

Mandy Johnson, Bassoon

Jackie Fisher

C3 Community Singers

[License #A-715564 from OneLicense.net]

Sound booth

Dave Miller

Video cameras

Brad Vander Ark

Ushers

Kevin Baldus – Captain

Harvey Hammond

Ryan Cotton

Paul Crowell

Cathy Saurman

Ted Poulton

David Dean

Jane Horton

Dan Horton

The blue team ushers next Sunday.

We appreciate your offering

This is a community-led organization that relies primarily on the support of individuals. Donation envelopes are available in the pews. For your convenience, we invite you to join the vast majority of our members who give regularly via automatic checking withdrawal, credit card, and online donations. Indicate your interest on a white pew card and place it in the offering plate and our office will contact you. **Your generosity makes the work of this community possible.**

Children's Time

Bob Kleinheksel

Prayer

Bob Kleinheksel

*Congregational Song

Where Do We Come From?

Words and music by Paul Gaugin and Brian Tate

(c)1999 Brian Tate

(Four-Part Chant)

1. *Mystery, mystery, life is a riddle and a mystery*
2. *Where do we come from? Where are we going?*
3. *Where do we come from? What are we? Where are we going?*
4. *Where do we come from?*

Readings

Joan Cook

Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it. If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

- John 14:12-17

It is possible that the next Buddha will not take the form of an individual. The next Buddha may take the form of a community, a community practicing understanding and loving kindness, a community practicing mindful living. And the practice can be carried out as a group, as a city, as a nation.

- Thich Nhat Hanh

Somewhere deep down we are all filled with a mystical longing, with a longing for ultimate meaningfulness, and therefore we need to see all of our world in that context. To attain this in today's climate, we need a new theology of the cosmos —one that is grounded in the best science of our day. It will be a theology in which God is very present precisely in all the dynamism and patterns of the created order. A theology of evolution sees God as deeply involved in the evolutionary process of the world. God is making the world by means of evolution. And the evolutionary process in its turn is seen as striving toward God. So, you see, God is Self-expressing and Self-realizing in evolution. All sorts of wonderful creatures have been generated from a few simple principles and a handful of elementary particles. The creativity that makes the world is built into the world as its own essence. And in this self-creating world there is gradually growing the most Godlike capacity, *consciousness*.

- Beatrice Bruteau

Teaching

"Evolution is the New Creation"

Ian Lawton

Community Offering

Suite for Woodwind Quintet 2nd Movement, Andante

The Lafayette Ensemble

Robert Washburn

*Affirmation

Seed of Evolution

You are part of the largest story there is; the evolution of the universe. The Big Bang is your creator. The stars are your ancestors. Your life is a play within the largest play of all. All people and all things are part of your spiritual family.

Say to yourself: The world is my home. All people are my family. I am related to it all.

*Closing Music

Suite for Woodwind Quintet 3rd Movement,
Allegro con spirito

The Lafayette Ensemble

Robert Washburn

Next Week is Mardi Gras!

Sunday, February 14

9:00 a.m. - Coffee & Conversation

9:00 a.m. - Bible for Progressives

9:00 a.m. - Awakenings Gathering

10:00 a.m. - **Mardi Gras** Gathering

11:15 a.m. - Personal Evolution Talk

Facilitated by Christine Platt, PhD -
"Understanding the Stages of Change for
Your Personal Evolution"

Mardi Gras and the Carnival happen before Ash Wednesday and Lent, a season of penitence. Steve Weideman and other fun, creative musicians bring us traditional Mardi Gras music with brass.

Please bring your own hats, wear gold, green and purple, the colors of Mardi Gras, and be part of this traditional, lively and fun Christian observance!

Throughout February, Ian will explore the incredible depths of sexuality and spirituality. Desire, intimacy, surrender, self-expression, praise, bodies, awareness, sensuality and pleasure are all pathways to realizing God within, between and beyond. Don't miss the opportunity to deepen your humanity, improve your sex life and discover the soul of sexuality.

The C3 Library Committee thanks you for your input last Sunday at the Talk-back. There is a suggestion box placed at the counter in the library which is located directly down the stairs from the parlor for further recommendations. Please feel free to visit and offer your suggestions.

C3 Family News

Terry Jager is in Blodgett Hospital undergoing tests.

We remember Lisa and Brian Highstreet in the loss of Lisa's father this past week.

We grieve with Shelly Saunders and children (Lillie, Phoebe, Porter and Clara) with the loss of husband Jonas, whose life was celebrated this last week.

Lowell Zimmer continues his recovering from back surgery.

We are an alternative to church as usual.

We live together in awe of Life,
connected by a sense of mystery that many call God.

Inclusive grace moves us to embrace all
with unconditional love and gracious acceptance,
celebrating ethnicity, gender, age, and sexual orientation.

We are a diverse, creative community
in background,
in faith perspective,
in public expression;
a blending of all the great spiritual traditions.

We find a window to God in the face of Jesus
and also in the quest and insight of other faiths;
seeking dialogue and mutual enrichment in our pluralistic world.

Please join us as we strive for greater justice and peace in the world
inspired by Jesus and social activists through the centuries
who challenged the status quo,

Join us to be the change we wish to see in the world,
respecting earth's patterns, and honoring wellness in its many forms.

We are a community of open mind and warm heart,
valuing the progressive unfolding of theology,
where all are encouraged
to honor their minds,
live their questions,
and embrace inner peace.

We invite all to join us in this exciting adventure of humanity.

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