



From the Administrator,

Welcome to the newsletter for the First of October. You will find contributions from **Dave Siegfried, Nick Schweitzer, Meghan Pierce, Ellen Paul, Eleanor Chiquoine, Gilbert Williams, Indivisible Sauk Prairie, Free the 15 Committee, Wormfarm Institute, Cemetery Affairs Committee, and UU Multiracial Unity Council.** I think you will find them interesting. Please let me know if I can be of assistance. My Park Hall hours are Tuesday and Friday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and by appointment. Park Hall Voicemail: 608.643.3131 **Fritz Parks**

Upcoming Sunday Programs (10:10 a.m.)

Date	Program	Speaker	Topic
Oct 4	Spiritual Roundtable	All present	Artificial Intelligence
Oct 11	U.U. Program	David Butler	Crafting a Moral Life
Oct 18	174th Stiftungsfest-Founders Day	Nick Schweitzer	Free Congregations Here & in Germany

We invite you to attend our in-person Sunday programs at our beautiful Park Hall. We have masks available. Childcare is provided each Sunday. Our Sunday programs are also available live on Zoom (see last page info).

Protecting Our Neighbors - panel - Saturday, October 3

This event is recommended to our readers by members Meghan Pierce, Ellen Paul, and Eleanor Chiquoine. Event title: **Protecting Our Neighbors: ICE's Impact on Sauk County, Saturday, October 3, 10:30-11:30 am, George Culver Library, Sauk City.** More info at [End ICE Contracts](#). Join community members in Sauk County for a conversation about the county's agreement with ICE and what it means for immigrant families and the broader community.

Hear from leaders at **Voces de la Frontera** and the **ACLU of Wisconsin** about how the agreement works, its potential impacts, and current legal and legislative efforts related to immigration enforcement. There will also be an opportunity for community members to ask questions and learn about ways to get involved. Panelists include **Christine Neumann-Ortiz**, executive director of **Voces**, and **Heather Schwarz**, attorney for the **ACLU**. **Dave Considine** will moderate.

When ICE Melts documentary and discussion - Sunday, October 4

Robin Proud sends this info from the **Free the 15 Defense Committee - Madison**. **When ICE Melts** is a documentary film that examines how ordinary people organized across neighborhoods, workplaces, unions, and communities to resist repression and build collective power. It draws out the strategic lessons of those experiences, including the decisive nature of the January 23 mass strike in defeating ICE. **Sunday, October 4**, at the **Madison Labor Temple**, starting at **3:00 p.m.** Info, guest panelists, schedule and poster at [WHEN ICE MELTS](#).

Wormfarm Institute: A Decomposium 2026 - October 9-11

A three-day, multidisciplinary symposium that explores the science, art, and rituals of decay and renewal. Wormfarm celebrates decomposition as a generative, creative process that breaks down matter, releases essential elements, and supports new growth. Sessions will take place at the **Freethinkers' Hall** in Sauk City and the nearby **Free Congregation Cemetery** in **Honey Creek**. For information and to register: [Decomposium 2026](#)

Board of Directors Meeting - October 11

The **Board** of the Free Congregation will meet on **October 11** in **Park Hall** at **11:30 a.m.** If you have an issue for us to an address, please email Dave Siegfried, President of the Board at [Dave Siegfried](#) so that it may be added to the agenda.

174th Stiftungsfest - Founders Day - October 18

First celebrated in 1853, we celebrate and thank our founders each Third Sunday of October. This year we will welcome member and guest speaker **Nick Schweitzer**. Nick's topic will be **Free Congregations Here & in Germany**. **John Kolb** will host the program, which will start at **10:10 a.m. in Park Hall**. Childcare is provided. Please join our members for a potluck meal after the program. The public is invited; come as you are.

Potluck suggestions for October 11

Members may bring potluck foods according to last name:

- S-Z desserts
- L-R salads
- A-K entree dishes

What I Believe Now

The Adult Ed discussion group, **What I Believe Now**, will meet **on Zoom Monday, October 26**, at **6:30 p.m.** The topic will be: **Consciousness session 2**. Please email **Nick Schweitzer**, jnschweitzer@gmail.com, if you'd like to receive a meeting invitation and list of questions in preparation for the gathering.

Sauerkraut Report

The Kitchies produced about 10 gallons of salted cabbage, now fermenting into sauerkraut in our kitchen. It will be part of the **Feast of the Winter Solstice on December 20**. For folks interested in helping with our solstice celebration, please contact Gilbert Williams, 608-574-6656.

News from the Cemetery Affairs Committee

Keith Grotophorst of Richland County, and younger brother of John (a steadfast member of our Cemetery Affairs Committee until his death), was buried at the Andrew C Roll Cemetery on August 26. His obituary may be viewed online.

The Committee met via Zoom on September 23; all members were present. The burial guidelines were revised: all purchased plots are required to have marker that complies with cemetery guidelines; the marker will list the names the individual (or Family) name for that plot- whether interment is there or not. A reminder to all: those qualifying and wishing a burial at the cemetery must submit a letter of intent to use the cemetery, and pay a perpetual one-time fee of \$300.

U.U. Women's Connection Fall Retreat, October 16-18

The Fall Retreat will be at the Cedar Valley Retreat Center, near West Bend, Wisconsin. The theme will be Transitions, with the goal of helping people make the most of their finite lives thru discussion of death. For fee and accommodation information and to register: [Women's Connection Retreats](#).

Making Racism Wrong, Again, October 17

The U.U. **Multiracial Unity Action Council** will sponsor a **Zoom** convocation. There will be 3 speakers to address the legal fight against racism, the political fight against racism, and the faithful individual's fight against racism. Questions and comments will follow. **Saturday, October 17, 11:00 a.m. Central Time, until 1:00 p.m.** To register, send an email to UUMUAC@gmail.com. Zoom codes will be sent the day before the event.

How to join our Zoom Sunday Programs.

1. Go to the Sunday Programs tab of our website:
<http://www.freecongregation.org/sunday-programs.aspx>
2. Refresh the browser page.
3. Click the “**Join Our Zoom Meeting**” link in RED TEXT.

The “**Join Our Zoom Meeting**” link will not be visible until 15 minutes before our meeting; typically this is 9:55 a.m. for a 10:10 a.m. meeting. Early birds will see the option to “**Join a Practice Zoom Meeting**”. Refreshing the page after 9:55 a.m. should reveal the active meeting link.

We publish twice a month to our website. We email announcements to our list as each issue appears online. If you no longer desire email reminders, feel free to tidy up our email list with an unsubscribe message. Keep our website bookmarked for future use.

[FreeCongregation.org](http://www.FreeCongregation.org) our website homepage

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I welcome your submissions to this newsletter. Send your events, announcements, photos, and recipes to me at [Newsletter Submissions](#), or use the **Contact Us** form at bottom of the page.