



From the Administrator,

Welcome to the newsletter for the Fifteenth of August. You will find contributions from **Dave Siegfried, Nick Schweitzer, Ellen Paul, Susie Tatone and Jenni Walsh**. 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
Aug 17	Free Thought Forum	Gilbert Williams	The Old Miller's Tale, part 2
Aug 24	U.U. Program	Penny Andrews	Joanna Macy: Life & Teachings
Aug 31	5th Sunday	All invited	Work Day: jobs inside and out

We invite you to attend our in-person Sunday programs at our newly restored Park Hall. We have masks available. Childcare is provided each Sunday.

Our Sunday programs are also available live on Zoom.

Free Thought Forum - August 17 - The Old Millers' Tale, part 2



Guest speaker and member **Gilbert Williams** spoke in April on **How an Old Man Looks at American Agriculture**; our audience requested that Gil return to focus on **new grains**. For this Sunday, Gil's talk will present **The Old Millers' Tale, part 2**. He will share knowledge about small grains and the stone milling process. The discussion will include specifics about the different flours available for your bread. This will include options available for gluten-free breads. There will be a tasting of various baked products, whole wheat and gluten free.

Free Thought Forums continue the legacy of free and open inquiry established more than 150 years ago by the founders of the Free Congregation. As their Sunday programs did then, today's Forums express our commitment to free thought in religion, guided by reason, and inspired by the books of nature and world history. **Free Thought Forums begin at 10:10 a.m.** with brief announcements. The guest presenter then speaks for 25-30 minutes. Open comments and questions follow the presentation. We usually adjourn by 11:20 a.m. Childcare is provided. The program will be on Zoom at <https://freecongregation.org/sunday-programs.aspx>. Please join us!

Volunteer Opportunities

August 24 and September 14

Opening the hall, preparing the coffee, water, etc. to take upstairs.

Closing the hall, taking the coffee etc. down to the kitchen and generally cleaning up, either loading and starting the dishwasher or washing all the cups, etc.

More volunteers opportunities

to be backup for A/V duties,

to serve on the Outreach Committee,

to serve on the Volunteer Committee.

Please contact **Ellen**, cap313@gmail.com or text to 608-963-8451 if you can volunteer.

What I Believe Now - Adult Education on Zoom

The Adult Ed discussion group, **What I Believe Now**, will meet **on Zoom** as usual on the fourth **Monday, August 25**, at **6:30 p.m.**. The topic will be **Faith**. 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.

5th Sunday Work Party - August 31

We will have a painting party in the basement and trim grass from the sidewalk cracks. Come wearing your painting clothes ready to sand, smooth, prime, and paint. We will be working in the bathroom closest to the door. If you have a string trimmer, bring it for some light outside work. Childcare provided. Possibly brunch afterward somewhere local! - Susie Tatone

Board of Directors will meet September 14

The **Board of Directors** of the Free Congregation will meet on **Sunday, September 14** at **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](mailto:Dave.Siegfried@freecongregation.org) so that it may be added to the agenda. The meeting will also be on Zoom.

Mark Your Calendars! Concert on September 20th- 2 bands

7:00 p.m. Spare Bones: delivering original material as well as favorite covers through lush, soul-soaked sounds that cut to the bone. Blending ballads, pop-synth, and indie folk. Standout artists Shawndell Marks (Baraboo), Ginny Kincaid (Madison), and Meghan Hamilton (Madison) combine voices and vibes, trading instruments amongst themselves to provide the audience with a captivating, kinetic performance.

8:00 p.m. Gin Chocolate and Bottle Rockets: This group combines the musical styles of three solo-artists-turned-bandmates Jen Farley, Shawndell Marks and Beth Kille. They blend their voices into sublime 3-part harmonies, backed by Marks on keyboard, accordion and bass, Kille on guitar and mandolin and Farley on percussion. This Indie Pop/Singer-Songwriter trio delivers powerhouse harmonies reminiscent of Wilson Phillips, The Wailin' Jennys, and the legendary supergroup of Dolly, EmmyLou and Linda.

Entry fee collected at the door. Snacks & refreshments will be for sale.

FCSC Board Meeting Update from Secretary Jenni Walsh

The FCSC Board met on August 10th. Following are a few highlights from this meeting:

Childcare Assistant: Audrey Hanco has served as our Childcare Assistant and she will be attending the University of Minnesota this fall. The Board agreed to formally thank Audrey with a gift card. Our new Childcare Assistant is Stella Osiedacz.

Events Update: The Sauk Prairie Theatre Guild will be hosting two Children's Drama Workshops from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on August 23rd and September 6th. Mark your calendars for Saturday, September 30th when we'll be hosting two bands, starting at 7:00 p.m. The band Spare Bones will kick it off. They are an electronic pop trio featuring Shawndell Marks, covering Neil Young and Joni Mitchell songs as well as originals. Gin, Chocolate & Bottle Rockets will perform at 8:00 p.m, featuring originals, and songs from Linda Ronstadt, Dolly Parton, Lucinda Williams.

Cemetery Affairs Committee: The Ochsner Foundation is donating a bench for the Park Hall Cemetery. The committee is currently discussing an appropriate location.

Elevator Replacement: The Faithify Campaign is currently underway. This crowdfunding platform is for Unitarian Universalist ministry projects. To make a donation, please visit the website at <https://www.faithify.org/campaign/499/replacement-of-non-functioning-elevator-in-freethinkers-hall>

5th Sunday Workday: We will be painting the bathrooms and prepare them for the new flooring that will be installed at a later date.

Volunteers needed - Chow Chip Festival

On **Saturday, August 30**, the Congregation will have a promotional table at the Sauk Prairie **Cow Chip Festival in Marion Park in Prairie du Sac**. We need volunteers to staff our table. Two hour shifts are available throughout the day from **9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.** Please contact Jenni Walsh at walshjenni77@gmail.com if you are interested. We'd love your help in promoting our wonderful congregation.



The roof and walls of the shed on the back of the grounds are wearing out. Recently, we discovered that a 2 foot hole had opened up on the roof. At left, you see our Building and Grounds Committee at work with a temporary repair. That's **Wood Weller** on the roof, **Steve Chiquoine** holding the ladder, and **John Lichtenheld** behind the shutter. Thanks guys!

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 our website homepage

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