



## From the Administrator,

Welcome to the newsletter for the first day of January 2021. You will find contributions from Martha Greco and Nick Schweitzer that I hope you find interesting. Please let me know if I can be of assistance. My usual Park Hall hours are Tuesday and Friday mornings from 9:00 a.m. and by appointment. Park Hall Voicemail: 608.643.3131 **Fritz Parks**

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

Date	Program	Speaker	Topic
Jan 3	Spiritual Roundtable	Susie Tatone	Conspiracy Theories
Jan 10	Child Ed & UU Program	Penny Andrews	Life on the Edge–Bioneers 2020
Jan 17	FTF Painesfest	Michael Johnson	Black Lives Matter
Jan 24	Child Ed & UU Program	Robin Proud	TBA
Jan 31	5th Sunday	Suggestions welcome	

**How to join our Zoom Sunday Programs.** Please use the following steps to join each and every one of our Zoom programs. We will use this simple method for **every Zoom meeting**. You should have success by following the steps below each time.

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.

Instructions to join the meeting by telephone are on this same web page.

## Notes and Events from/for Members, Friends and Community

The **Board of Directors** of the Free Congregation will meet on **January 10 at 11:30 a.m.** on Zoom, following the Sunday program. If you have an issue for us to address, please email Nick Schweitzer, President of the Board at [jnschweitzer@gmail.com](mailto:jnschweitzer@gmail.com) so that it may be added to the agenda.

The month of **January brings us 5 Sundays**. Although we are unable to accommodate a work party or field trip, we are now well-practiced on Zoom. January 31 could be an opportunity to attend a Zoom event of interest. I heard a good suggestion that we have another poetry or song sharing circle. Please send your recommendations for Zoom events on Sunday January 31. The event does not need to run that morning but that time would be closest to our current routine. Is there a serious or fun or whimsical or educational event that interests you? Got a poem or song to share in the company of other Free Thinkers? We will look for your suggestions; watch for the January 15 Newsletter for information.

The adult ed class, **What I Believe Now** (WIBN) will be offered on **Zoom** on the **fourth Monday evening of each month** from **6:30 to 8:30**, starting **January 25**. These classes will be conducted like our First Sunday Spiritual Roundtables, with a brief introduction by class leader Nick Schweitzer before opening it up for general discussion. The monthly topics will be:

- 1 - God(s)
- 2 - Spirituality
- 3 - Religion and (Religious) Community
- 4 - Human Nature
- 5 - Morality and Ethics (without creeds and commandments)
- 6 - Religious Holidays and How They Evolved
- 7 - Holy Books of the Abrahamic Religions: Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and Mormonism

Prior to each class, Nick will send out a short list of quotations and questions designed to encourage discussion. The class is open to all, but to receive the zoom invitation and the material, you'll need to sign up, by emailing either Fritz ([freecongregation@icloud.com](mailto:freecongregation@icloud.com)) or Nick ([jnschweitzer@gmail.com](mailto:jnschweitzer@gmail.com)).

**Amos Burritt Roe**, age 64, of Madison, Wis., passed away Sunday, Nov. 29, 2020, at home, where he lived with his wife and son. Amos had been a member and a substitute pianist for our programs. His keyboard skills jazzed up the hall with pop and ragtime selections. He will be missed. Follow this link to read his full obituary: [Amos Roe Obituary - WiscNews](#)

**Martha Greco** shares the following poem about the pandemic. Martha heard the poem recited by her cousin, a physician who heard it from a colleague. It appears to be written by **Laura Kelly Fanucci**.

*When this is over, may we never again take for granted,  
A handshake with a stranger, full shelves at the store,  
Conversations with neighbors, a crowded theatre,  
Friday night out, the taste of communion,  
A routine checkup, the school rush each morning,  
Coffee with a friend, the stadium roaring,  
Each deep breath, a boring Tuesday, life itself.*

*When this ends, may we find that we have become,  
More like the people we wanted to be,  
We were called to be and may we stay that way:  
Better for each other because of the worst.      Laura Kelly Fanucci*

**Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance** is an important friend to the congregation; we share members with them. We celebrate that SPCA has **reached its Fund for the Future fundraising goal** and is publicly recognizing member **Carol Fleishauer** for her support. SPCA will host a film and discussion: **From Military Facility to Green Space: The Amazing Transformation of the Badger Army Ammunition Plant**. This virtual event will occur **Tuesday, January 5, 2021, 6:00 - 7:30pm**. Space is limited and **pre-registration is required**.

**Agrace** Offers Free, Virtual Grief Support Groups.

Children, teens and adults can find hope and healing after a death with the help of Agrace grief support specialists. Various **grief support groups** will meet online, every other week, from January to May. There are no fees, and participants can join from home, anywhere in southern Wisconsin. Pre-registration is required. Call (608) 327-7135 with questions or to register.

The **Child/Teen Loss Support Group** is for adults who have experienced the death of a child and have school-aged children/teens; it meets **every other Tuesday, from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.**

The **Spouse/Partner Loss Support Group** is for adults whose spouse/partner has died and who have school-aged children/teens; it meets **every other Wednesday, from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.**

The **Sibling Loss Support Group** is for children ages 5 to 18 who have lost a sibling. It meets **every other Monday, from 6 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.** Children are grouped by age.

The **Parent/Primary Caregiver Loss Group** is for children ages 5 to 18 whose parent or primary caregiver has died. It meets **every other Thursday, from 6 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.** Children are grouped by age.

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://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.