



From the Administrator,

Welcome to the newsletter for the First of July. You will find contributions from Dave Siegfried, Nick Schweitzer, Ellen Paul, Eleanor Chiquoine, Family of Michael Whaley, Rev. Phil Haslanger, WMTV 15. 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
July 5	Spiritual Roundtable	All present	Making Connections
July 12	U.U. Program	David Butler	ADHD through New Eyes
July 19	Free Thought Forum	Phil Haslanger	Crossing Racial Lines

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).

Board of Directors Meeting

The **Board** of the Free Congregation will meet on **Sunday, July 12 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](#) so that it may be added to the agenda.

What I Believe Now

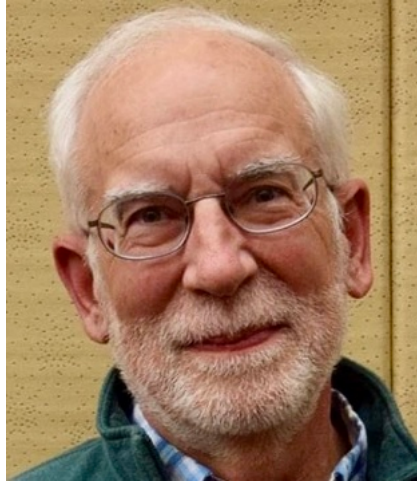
The Adult Ed discussion group, **What I Believe Now**, will meet **on Zoom** on this fourth **Monday, July 27, at 6:30 p.m.** The topic will be **Amathia: Willful Ignorance, Intelligent Stupidity**. Please email Nick Schweitzer, jnschweitzer@gmail.com, if you'd like to receive a meeting invitation and list of questions in preparation for the gathering.

Celebration of Life for Michael Whaley August 2, 2 p.m., Park Hall

Please join us to share memories of Michael and spend time together. There will be cold drinks, food from Red Barn Catering, and live music from Doug Brown. Children are welcome; please leave your dogs at home. We will gather inside Park Hall for stories and memories, and then spend the rest of the afternoon outside, weather permitting. [Click for Michael's obituary](#). Please assist the preparation for this event by clicking [RSVP yes, regrets, or maybe](#)

Free Thought Forum July 19 - Crossing Racial Lines

Please join us for July's Free Thought Forum with guest speaker **Phil Haslanger, Sunday, July 19, 10:10 a.m. at Park Hall and on Zoom** (see last page information). Childcare is provided.



Crossing Racial Lines from Phil Haslanger

As concerned as we might be about the racial divisions that have long been part of our society, it is hard to find ways to cross those lines, especially when we live in areas that are overwhelmingly white. I have been seeking ways to do that for much of my life (hint – I am now 77 years old).

Fortunately, I have not had to do that alone. I have had guides and mentors along the way who helped. And I still keep working on it. Most of my efforts have been around black and white connections, but in an area like Sauk County, the largest ethnic group is Hispanic, which often adds the additional challenge of language barriers as well as worries about documentation. I have struggled with that in Madison as well.

I hope that on July 19, we can explore this together, not to find the magic answer to all the divides that exist, but perhaps to open up a few doors we can walk through. I am looking forward to being with you.

Rev. Phil Haslanger has had careers in Madison in both journalism and ministry. He worked at **The Capital Times** for 34 years, then served as pastor at **Memorial United Church of Christ** in Fitchburg for a decade. Now he is deeply involved in the life of **Christ Presbyterian Church** in Madison as a volunteer.

In recent years, he has served on the board of **JustDane**, an organization that works with formerly incarcerated people. He also is a volunteer with the **Prison Ministry Project**, helping with their restorative justice program. In addition, he chairs the advisory board of the **Center for Journalism Ethics** and has chaired the advisory council of the **Religion News Service**.

He and his wife, Ellen Reuter, live in Fitchburg and their children and grandchildren are scattered across the country.

WMTV On the Road Profile of Free Thinkers Hall

As part of WMTV's **On the Road** series, they will travel to **Fire on the River on Friday, July 3rd**. On that Friday's programming, they will broadcast a feature on the history of Park Hall. Members **Eleanor Chiquoine** and **Nick Schweitzer** are interviewed; a piece of the interview is planned to run during WMTV 15's **5 p.m. broadcast**. Please tune in!

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

Other Useful Links:

[Unsubscribe to Newsletter List](#) use the form below newsletter links.

[Sign up for Newsletter List](#) use the form below newsletter links.

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.

Picnic Attendance June 21, 2026

This year's picnic was a great event: poetry, live music, brats, and potluck. **Roughly 36 people, several dogs, and two Bald Eagles attended.** In no particular order: Jim Pearson, Elle Sampson, Jason Tesch, Christine Meiners, David Eagan, Ellen Paul, Scott Weber, Fritz Parks, John Lichtenheld, Connie Westly, Gigi La Budde, March Schweitzer, Nick Schweitzer, Wood Weller, Melanie Weller, Arvid Berge, Denise Berg, Dave Ogren, Maria Hansa, Dave Siegfried, Gil Williams, Lynne Roberts, Zöe Whaley, Jonah Maestri, Margot Maestri, Eleanor Chiquoine, Steve Chiquoine, Joe Frost, Chuck Park, Clint MacKinney, Ellen MacKinney, Jay Salinas & colleague, neighbor Kristin Enge & family Photos by Eleanor Chiquoine, Gigi La Budde, Ellen Paul, and Fritz Parks



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