



From the Administrator,

Welcome to the newsletter for the July 15. You will find contributions from **Chelsey Larson, David Olson, Ellen Paul, 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
July 18	Free Thought Forum	David Olson	Wood Wide Web
July 25	Joint Program/Potluck	FC + Prairie U.U.	Joint Program followed by potluck
Aug 1	Spiritual Roundtable	TBA	Religious Freedom and Discrimination
Aug 8	U.U. Program	TBA	TBA
Aug 15	Free Thought Forum	Will VanRoosenbeek	LGBTQ Issues

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 **August 8 at Park Hall** following the Sunday program. If you have an issue for us to an address, please email Nick Schweitzer, President of the Board at jnschweitzer@gmail.com so that it may be added to the agenda. The meeting will also be on Zoom.

This Sunday, July 18, Free Thought Forum, by Prof. David Olson:

There is a **mysterious world just under our feet** that is only now being investigated by scientists. Millions of miles of microscopic tubes connect the living world above in a dazzling network that some have termed the **Wood Wide Web**. These tubes are fungal cells and they are doing far more than simply decomposing dead material. They also act as mediators to transport food, energy and signaling molecules between plants.

Taken as a whole, this forest network appears to have similar levels of connectivity as a human brain. Could it be thinking?

David Olson grew up in Minneapolis and moved to Wisconsin in 1991 to attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison where his degree work involved Zoology and Conservation. Most recently he has been teaching Environmental Science and Botany courses at UW-Platteville Baraboo Sauk County. In his free time Dave enjoys working with local conservation groups and exploring the Baraboo Hills for rare plants. He also practices Tai Chi and mediation.

First potluck back in Park Hall

We will join the congregation of Prairie U.U. in Park Hall for our annual joint program and potluck. The program will feature speakers from both congregations on the topic **Gratitude**. As usual the program will start at 10:10 a.m. and include music by Marita Kelter. Childcare is provided for the program. Children will join us downstairs for one of our delicious potluck lunches. The public is welcome.

Parents:

We provide free childcare for all our Sunday programs. Per CDC guidelines, children who are unvaccinated and above the age of 2 will need to wear a mask (available at Park Hall) except during outside activities. Vaccinated children are welcome to attend unmasked. If a child is sick, please keep them home. We look forward to having kids in the hall again.

The last meeting of the **What I Believe Now** class is scheduled for **July 26, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.** on Zoom. The topic will be the Holy Books of the Abrahamic Religions: Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and Mormonism. Future adult education offerings will be held in person, at times also on Zoom. If you're interested in attending but haven't been on the roster, email Nick at jnschweitzer@gmail.com.

Potluck dish assignments for our members:

Here are suggestion for potluck food by last name:

Last name S-Z salads, breads

Last name L-R entree dishes

Last name A-K desserts

The public is invited to join us as you are; potluck dish is not required. We'll have plenty!

Members invited to speak at the Joint Program on July 25.

We are in need of a couple members to contribute to the program by speaking on the topic Gratitude. Your comments need not be formal and may be brief or up to 5 minutes. Prairie members will be speaking to the same topic. Contact Fritz to sign up to speak.

Board of Directors Vacancy

We have one vacancy on our board of directors. The board meets monthly on the 2nd Sunday following the U.U. Program. Please consider joining the leadership of the congregation.

Park Hall Events, by Ellen Paul

This monthly column is where you may follow Park Hall rentals and events. It will be published on the 15th of each month. Our Facilities Coordinator, Ellen Paul will be happy to answer your inquiries about renting. Our website has additional information, fee details, and our Calendar.

This month

July 12-14, 21-22, 26-28, 29 - Rehearsals and Production meetings for SPTG's Midstage Troupe (teen play)- Play will be produced at the River Arts Center in August.
July 17, 2021-Amos Roe Celebration of Life-Private Party-Invitation only

Scheduled 2021 Events

September 1-3- Trevor Stephenson recording at Hall
September 3- Trevor Stephenson Concert
September 25, 2021- Jorgenson-Schultz Wedding
October 2, 2021- Peggy Lahti Celebration of Life
November 13, 2021- Music Theatre International and SPTG Event
November 25, 2021- Corrao Family Thanksgiving
December 11, 2021- Mundt Family Thanksmas

Scheduled 2022 Events

March 12, 2022-Member Birthday Party
May 21, 2022-Walter-Otten Wedding
July 30, 2022-Brink-Griffith Wedding Ceremony, Dinner, and Party
September 23-24, 2022-Dunlap/Foster Rehearsal and Wedding

To reach Ellen, ph: 608-963-8451, email: ParkHallEvents@gmail.com.

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.