



From the Administrator,

Welcome to the newsletter for the First of June. You will find contributions from **Dave Siegfried, Nick Schweitzer, Christine Meiners, UUA MidAmerica Region, Gilbert Williams, John Lichtenheld, Susie, Tatone, and Jennifer 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
June 7	Spiritual Roundtable	All present	Tradition
June 14	Annual Meeting	All invited	Business meeting, Elections, New Member welcome
June 21	Picnic at Slotty Road	All invited	Brats and potluck side dishes

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 info on page 4).

Website remains out of date

Our Web Hosting Service is down so we have not been able to update the website since May 22. As of today, the website is accessible, but out of date; however, general info and the Calendar are reliable. Links to Sunday Zoom meetings are out of date. Those links may be found at [Facebook FCSC2017](#). We hope to be updated soon.

Board of Directors Meeting

The **Board** of the Free Congregation will meet on **June 14, at Park Hall at 9:30 a.m.** The agenda will be limited to approving the budget and candidates running for board office. The Annual Business Meeting will follow a 10:10 a.m. Please contact Dave Siegfried, at [Dave Siegfried](#) for further information.

Annual Meeting

Members are asked to attend. On at the agenda: board elections, approval of 26-27 budget, and new member recognition. **Meeting will begin at 10:10 a.m. on Sunday June 14**

What I Believe Now

The Adult Ed discussion group, **What I Believe Now**, will meet be on hiatus in May and June, to return in July. Watch the July 1 newsletter for topic info.

Facilities Coordinator Report - Christine Meiners

Sauk Prairie Pioneer day was held on May 13th where Park Hall was a stop. Paul Wolter provided an overview of Sauk City and Park Hall - This is an annual local history immersion event primarily designed for fourth-grade students to explore historical sites throughout Sauk City and Prairie du Sac. Students engage in hands-on learning and hear from history experts.

Upcoming events

- Meditation with Diane Matzke - bi-weekly mindfulness practice sessions from 6:30-7:30pm. Please join us for these free sessions in June on the 10th and 24th.
- Aug 2nd - Celebration of Life - Michael Whaley (2 - 5pm)
- September 26, 2026 3:00pm - Private wedding
- Worm Farm Institute: A Decomposition - Friday, October 9th, - Sunday October 11th, <https://www.wormfarminstitute.org/programs/current/decomp26october> : The Free Congregation of Sauk County is a proud co-sponsor of the Wormfarm Institute's experimental symposium on decomposition and renewal.
 - This gathering will feature soil scientists, artists, musicians, and death workers from across the country. The Wormfarm Institute is currently reviewing session proposals so keep checking their website or our newsletters for updates! <https://www.wormfarminstitute.org/programs/current/decomp26>
 - Keynote Speaker - Omar DeKok-Mercado, Director of Wilding, Mad Agriculture, Boulder Colorado Omar's (he/him) work has focused on supporting regenerative farmers in incorporating perennials into their farming systems. His philosophy embraces the wisdom of traditional practices and the power of creative imagination. Blending his technical expertise in soil science and agro-ecology with his artistic sensibilities he makes complex concepts accessible and inspiring. This unique blend has had a transformative impact on the agricultural landscapes he's worked with, enhancing both productivity and farmer livelihoods.
- November 26, 2026- Private Family Gathering
- December 12, 2026 Private Family Gathering
- December 13, 2026 Private Family Christmas
- December 19, 2026 - Private Family Gathering

Thanks for the help with Frühlingsfest Potluck

Our Volunteers were: Ellen Paul, Gil Williams, Jason Tesch, Christine Meiners, Chelsey Larson, David Eagan, Eleanor Chiquoine, Nick Schweitzer, Bill Ladewig. Flowers by Ellen Paul and Gigi LaBudde.

Mindfulness Meditation Sessions

Wednesdays: June 10 and June 24, 6:30 p.m. in Park Hall. Contact Diane Matzke, [email](mailto:diane@uua.org), (608) 963-6998, for more information.

UUA MidAmerica Region 2026 Business Meeting

June 20, in Louisville Kentucky and online, beginning at **9:00 central time**. More information at uua.org/midamerica.

Outside Grounds Work Day Report from Gilbert Williams

Good People: May is passing by too quickly.

The work party was held on May 31, Volunteers worked to create a fire circle as requested by the Worm Farm Institute for their October event.

Live well this day, Gil

May 2026 Buildings and Grounds Report John Lichtenheld Elevator Update

The work on the elevator installation has been completed. We are in the process of getting bids on painting the doors which should be the last vendor payment we need to make on the project. We (B&G) are still working on finishing the drywall on the inside and painting the exterior.

Maintenance Contract Options

Our newly installed elevator has a one year warranty on labor and a two year warranty on parts. We have two options for maintenance service once the warranty has expired in April, 2027. Both maintenance programs include two visits per year to inspect the elevator. The premium service covers parts and labor if any repairs are needed and costs \$1634 per year. The second option is their basic service and that only includes parts (not labor) if a repair is needed at \$693 per year. I would suggest that we make a decision now on the service plan and build it into our 26/27 budget. I would recommend the basic plan (\$700) for the first few years. As the elevator gets older, we could always switch to the more expensive and comprehensive plan.

Remembrance of Robert Wayne Johnson, from Susie Tatone

“Bob” Johnson was a regular first Sunday Attendee and my personal favorite "commie." We had not seen him in some time. Last Roundtable I got a sinking gut punch when someone said something that I wanted his reaction to and... I just knew. He never became a member so we somehow missed the memo that he passed back in October. I know he was not a pledging member but he WAS a part of our congregation. [Bob Johnson Obituary](#)

How to join our Zoom Sunday Programs.

1. Go to the <https://www.facebook.com/FCSC2017/events>. The Zoom link will be in the information for the Sunday Program.

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.

**April 12, 2026, Free Congregation of Sauk County
Board Meeting Minutes**

Board Members

- ✓ Dave Siegfried, President
- ✓ Jenni Walsh, Secretary
- Joe Frost, Treasurer – excused absence
- Glen Johnson, Stewardship Committee Chair
- ✓ Kathi Kemp, Member-at-large
- ✓ Susie Tatone, Member-at-large

- ✓ Gil Williams, Member-at-Large
- ✓ Nick Schweitzer, Past President
- ✓ John Lichtenheld, Building and Grounds – excused absence
- Other:
 - ✓ Christine Meiners, Facilities Coordinator
 - ✓ Fritz Parks, Non-Member Attendee

Meeting Called to Order: 11:50 a.m.

Approval of March Meeting Minutes – Nick Schweitzer moved to approve minutes. Kathi Kemp 2nd motion. Approved.

Staff Reports:

- Fritz Parks, Administrator’s Report: See written report. Added a new Zoom meeting link for additional Congregational needs, such as committee meetings, etc.
- Christine Meiners, Facilities Coordinator Report: See written report. Our Congregation will be a required stop on the Pioneer Day School Fieldtrip. Wormfarm Institute staff would like to attend an upcoming Board of Directors meeting to discuss event logistics for their October event. The Sauk Prairie Chamber of Commerce reached out to ask us to participate in a promotional video. Celebration of Life for Michael Whaley has been scheduled for August 2, 2026.

Treasurers Report: See Written Report.

Standing Committee Reports:

- Stewardship Committee, Glen Johnson: See Written Report. Need to send out a physical/paper mailing to our congregation, except for those who have donated.
- Third Sunday Committee, Kathi Kemp. We have a number of months to fill but committee members are working on scheduling speakers.
- Religious Education for Youth and Children, Susie Tatone. On Hiatus
- Buildings and Grounds, John Lichtenheld: Gil Williams updated committee. Gil updated the Board on his proposal to take care of mowing our grounds. Dave Siegfried moved to approve minutes. Jenni Walsh 2nd motion. Discussion: Susie

- Tatone asked Gil how he is going to separate his role lawn service vs volunteering for coordinating grounds upkeep. There was discussion about making sure that Gil isn't overcommitting time and the board agrees that it's a very reasonable proposal. Approved. Five voted yes and one abstention (Gil). The elevator inspection is scheduled for Thursday, April 16th.
- Personnel, Dave Siegfried: No Report.
- Membership: Ellen Paul resigned her role as Membership Chair. The board agreed that Kathi Kemp and Jenni Walsh will co-chair the Membership Committee and we will combine the duties of the Outreach Ad-Hoc Committee to Membership.
- Cemetery Affairs: Gigi LaBudde. No Report.

Ad-Hoc Committees:

- Celebration of the Season. There are board members who are still interested in having a Winter Solstice gathering. Susie Tatone, Gil Williams, and Kathi Kemp have agreed to meet and discuss potential ideas. They will ask David Eagan to join this group.
- Volunteers, Nick Schweitzer. No Report.
- Inventory Committee: No Report.
- Portraits in the Hall, Melaine Weller. No Report.

Old Business:

- Website: Dave Siegfried reviewed all of the UU websites that Fritz Parks provide and commented that, "they all failed". Jenni Walsh mentioned that Christine Meiner's husband is a website programmer and he developed the shell of a new website. Jenni Walsh

New Business:

- New Member Gift Bags, Nick Schweitzer. Nick put together a sample gift bag for new members, consisting of a coffee mug, tea bag, candy, and congregation promotional materials. Promotional materials will include information about our event space and a statement of UU principles and the Sauk Country Free Congregation values. The Membership Committee will take care of assembling the gift bags and distributing them to new members.

Adjourn: Gil Williams moved to approve minutes. Kathi Kemp 2nd motion. Approved.
12:36 p.m.