



## From the Administrator,

Welcome to the newsletter for the First of May. You will find contributions from **Dave Siegfried, Nick Schweitzer, Ellen Paul, and Gilbert Williams**. 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
May 3	Spiritual Roundtable	All attending	Moral Responsibilities and Obligations
May 10	U.U. Program	Rob Brink	
May 17	Fruhlingsfest	Bill Volkert	Bird Migration

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 **May 10 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 **be on hiatus in May and June, to return in July**. Watch the July 1 newsletter for topic info.

## Food Pantry News

Thanks to members **Chuck Park, Elle Sampson, and Ellen Paul** who volunteered for the April Pantry. We needed outside help from others to keep up with this busy distribution. There was not a dull moment as patrons filled their carts! Watch for next April's distribution so we can bring a full team of volunteers.

## **174th Fruhlingsfest Spring Holiday Program and Potluck - May 17**

Please mark your calendar for the coming 3rd Sunday of May. As we have done since 1852, we celebrate the coming of Spring each May. **Naturalist Bill Volkert** will be our guest speaker; his topic will be **Bird Migration**. Bill has been watching and studying birds for 50 years and in his travels has sighted more than 4,900 species. To facilitate his studies, he is also a federally licensed master bird bander, with the Bird Banding Laboratory of the U.S. Geological Survey. **Ellen Paul** will host. We start at **10:10 a.m.** in Park Hall. You are welcome to attend on Zoom (instructions and link on last page). Our members will serve a potluck lunch afterwards. Come as you are. Bring your friends and your appetite.

### **Potluck Suggestions for May 17**

We suggest the dishes according to our members' last names

S-Z salads

L-R entree dishes

A-K desserts

## **Prairie UU's new solar panels - Saturday May 16**

You are invited to celebrate Prairie UU's new solar panels on **Saturday May 16**. See the poster on page 3.

### **The Groundskeeper's Notebook - by Gilbert Williams [click for email](#)**

This spring begins my time as the Groundskeeper for the Congregation. Our outdoor work began on March 14 with the Grounds committee removing extra growth from the park. We were back on March 29 to finish the undertree clean up. Tree branches were trimmed to improve mower access. Tree caging done for recent year's new plantings were removed. My first lawn mowing was April 17. My focus was the grass areas in front and at the sides of the building. I have also removed 3 truck loads of sticks and branches from the property.

As of April 24, we are in a rapid growth and early bloom around the property. This is the start of a mindful mowing period. I will not cut blooming flowers, but will mow after they are past.

Going into summer I will maintain a good look in the front and let things go wild in the back.

I plan to hold a few work days over the growing season. The first will be Saturday, May 9 at 11:00 a.m., for no more than 1 hour, to improve the lawn in front of the building. We will rake up the spruce needles, add some compost and plant grass seed. We will follow with a community lunch.

Prairie UU Event Invitation



# SPRING SOLAR CELEBRATION

SATURDAY MAY 16TH 2026

YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR SOLAR PANEL CELEBRATION!

12PM PIZZA

12:15PM SOLAR PANEL RIBBON CUTTING

12:30PM CAKE, KIDS ACTIVITIES & MUSIC

2010 WHENONA DRIVE  
MADISON, WI 53711

FUNDING FROM LOUCKS FAMILY, THE CITY  
OF MADISON, RENEW WISCONSIN, AND THE  
COUILLARD SOLAR FOUNDATION - PIZZA  
DONATED FROM GLASS NICKEL-FITCBURG



## 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](http://FreeCongregation.org) our website homepage

Other Useful Links:

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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.