



From the Administrator,

Welcome to the newsletter for the 15th of May. You will find contributions from **Fred Clark, Susie Tatone, Nick Schweitzer, Glen Johnson**, and the **Joyful Path**. 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 18	Fruhlingsfest	Fred Clark	Natural Climate Solutions
May 25	U.U. Program	Rob Brink	Uncheatable Tests: Building Trust
June 1	Spiritual Roundtable	All attending	

We invite you to attend our in-person Sunday programs in our beautiful Park Hall. We have masks available. Childcare is provided each Sunday.

Our Sunday programs are also available live on Zoom.

The **Congregation** will meet for the annual **Business Meeting** on **June 8 at Park Hall at 10:10 a.m.** If you have an issue for us to an address, please email Susie Tatone, President of the Board at statone01@gmail.com so that it may be added to the agenda. The meeting will also be on Zoom.

The Adult Ed discussion group, **What I Believe Now**, will meet **on Zoom** as usual on the fourth **Monday, May 26, at 6:30 p.m.** The topic will be: **Death**. 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.

Call for play readers for the ~~June 18~~ **correction: Sunday June 15** picnic at the Slotty Road cemetery. This year, instead of musical entertainment, congregation members will be presenting short readings from well-known plays. This is your chance to be theatrical by acting, overacting, emoting, rhapsodizing, or hamming it up. Please contact David Roberts, burdok3@yahoo.com, or Nick Schweitzer, if you would be willing to take part in this dramatic production, and think about a passage -- no more than 5 minutes long -- to present.

Our **173rd Fruhlingsfest Program and Potluck** is this **Sunday, May 18, at 10:10 a.m.**, in the Hall and on Zoom. As we have done since 1853, we celebrate the passing of Winter with Fruhlingsfest (our Spring Holiday). Our guest speaker will be **Fred Clark**, well-known to the congregation as former congregation President and state legislator. Fred's topic will be **Natural Climate Solutions - Our Oldest Secret Weapon for Clean Air and Resilient Communities**.

Natural Climate Solutions (NCS) are actions to protect, manage and restore nature to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and store carbon. In 2017, The Nature Conservancy led a landmark study that showed how natural solutions for climate change designed to protect, better manage and restore forests, grasslands and wetlands could contribute up to a third of the emissions reductions we need to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. In his presentation, Fred Clark will explore the role and challenges of NCS in addressing climate change. He'll provide examples of NCS at work in Wisconsin and beyond. And we'll discuss how we can continue to effectively address climate and other key issues at a time when the United States is moving away from climate commitments toward climate denialism. You can learn more at [NCS – The Nature Conservancy](#).

Robin Wall Kimmerer “We don’t always act upon it, but we know how to love each other, and be grateful for each other, and be in reciprocity with each other. But I think we’re in this place because we haven’t loved the land enough. We need a greater expanse of how we channel that love. Knowing that you love the earth changes you, activates you to defend and protect and celebrate. But when you feel that the earth loves you in return, that feeling transforms the relationship from a one-way street into a sacred bond.”

Katherine Hayhoe “Hope is that small bright light at the end of the dark tunnel, that we head for with all our might and all our strength and when we get discouraged. We pick ourselves up and we keep on going because what is at stake is too valuable to lose. Every action matters, every bit of warming matters. Every choice matters. So, now more than ever, everything that we do matters. And that is scary, but it also offers some hope because we have the opportunity to truly alter the future of our planet.

Bring your appetite, family, and friends to share our potluck. Come as you are. Our members will provide the food. Suggested dishes by **member last name** are: **S-Z** salads, **L-R** desserts, and **A-K** entree dishes.

Pledge Drive Update: With less than 4 weeks until our annual business meeting, we have received only 26 pledges and are \$10,000 short of last year's pledge total. The Stewardship Committee will be meeting in the next two weeks to try to create a budget for the new fiscal year beginning July 1. Knowing how much we can expect from the congregation is the critical piece required to start the process. At this point it feels like trying to "make a silk purse out of a sow's ear". If you haven't sent in your pledge for 2025-26 yet, please let Fritz (freecongregation@icloud.com) or Glen (gjohnson@rucls.net) know what your intentions are. To those of you who have already pledged, thank you for your continued generosity.

Our elevator continues to have its "ups and downs". Even though our elevator is seemingly working at present, it is the very good counsel from our Buildings and Grounds Committee to continue fundraising for its eventual replacement. John Lichtenheld has solicited bids, and it appears we need to have \$75,000 to purchase a new elevator. Our Capital Projects Fund has roughly 1/3 that amount, so we need to raise in excess of \$50,000. Please help us keep our beautiful Park Hall accessible to all of our members and visitors. If you are able to contribute, please send your check to Free Congregation of Sauk County, PO Box 664, Sauk City, WI 53583, and make a note in the memo For The Elevator Fund. Thanks again, Glen

A Medicine Buddha Healing Ceremony will take place on Saturday, May 17, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the Hilton Garden Inn, in Middleton, with Domo Geshe Rinpoche, a Tibetan Lama. For information about fees and scholarships: info@joyfulpath.org, ph 608-437-0520.



The Story for All Ages on May 11 was **Namaste is a Greeting**, by Suma Subramaniam and Sandhya Prabhat. Associate Speaker Pema Antoniotti read the book to the congregation.

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

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