



From the Administrator,

Welcome to the newsletter for the Fifteenth of November. You will find contributions from **Dave Siegfried, Nick Schweitzer, Susie Tatone, John Peck, Pathway Home, Glen Johnson & Ellen Paul**. 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
Nov 16	Free Thought Forum	John Peck	Solidarity Between Farmer and Worker
Nov 23	U.U. Program	Penny Andrews	The Field Beyond Right and Wrong
Nov 30	Fifth Sunday	All attending	Work Day at Park Hall
Dec 7	Spiritual Roundtable	All attending	Conflict, Anger

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

Our Sunday programs are also available live on Zoom.

Board of Directors

The **Board of Directors** of the Free Congregation will meet on **December 14 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](mailto:dsiegfried@freecongregation.org) so that it may be added to the agenda. The meeting will also be on Zoom.

What I Believe Now

The Adult Ed discussion group, **What I Believe Now**, will meet **on Zoom** as usual on the fourth **Monday, November 24, at 6:30 p.m.** The topic is **Identity: Who Am I? What Am I? What Am I Not?** 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.

Free Thought Forum, November 16, with John Peck



Guest Speaker John Peck will give a talk on **Building Solidarity Between Family Farmers & Farm Workers in Troubled Times**. According to neoliberal economists (and proto-fascist politicians), family farmers and farm workers should have nothing in common. But that is not true, especially if one believes in broader principles of food sovereignty and global cooperation. Family Farm Defenders has a long history of building coalitions within the labor movement, and that includes organizing with farmworkers and others across the entire food sector. We'll share some of the lessons from that work, and discuss current efforts to resist deportations and counter xenophobia in Wisconsin and elsewhere. As the slogan of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) proclaims, an injury to one is an injury to all!

John E. Peck grew up on a farm in rural MN during the 1970s farm crisis and is still farming today (with his partner) in Green County (yellowdogproduce.com). He has a PhD in Land Resources from UW-Madison and teaches economics part-time at Madison College. For the last 25 years he has also been the executive director of Family Farm Defenders (www.familyfarmers.org), a national grassroots organization devoted to promoting food sovereignty. The **Program starts at 10:10 a.m. in Park Hall**. Childcare is provided. Masks are available. You may also attend on Zoom (see last page instructions).

2026 Painesfest Holiday Program is moved to January 25

Our Guest Speaker will be Professor Daniel Kapust, UW Dept of History, who is an authority on Thomas Paine. Dr. Kapust's travel out of the country requires us to move our program back to the 4th Sunday of January. We will have a potluck as usual. Please make a note of it.

Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee is tasked with conducting regular evaluations of our paid employees, our Administrator Fritz Parks and our Facilities Coordinator Jenni Walsh. If you have worked with or interacted with either of them, we encourage you to send written comments about your experience and their performance, preferably by email by December 1st to the committee chair, Nick Schweitzer at jnschweitzer@gmail.com. The committee will review all comments and discuss them with the employees, specifically looking at and reviewing the duties in their position descriptions and the terms of their employment contracts.

Plates-apalooza, we've collected all sizes!

Have you ever brought a plate of goodies to the Hall and forgotten your plate? You are not alone! We have set out all of our mismatched plates so you can reclaim your dish ware and reunite your matching sets. Please take a walk through the basement and help us re-home these wayward plates. From Susie Tatone.

Administrator's Report

November 9, 2025 Board Meeting

Administrator's November Projects of Note

Prairie UU confirmed the July 26, 2026 Joint Program.

2 potential FTF speakers forwarded to the 3rd Sunday Committee.

Facebook

Sunday program notices and newsletter announcements are posted each month.

Newsletter

The October 15 Newsletter Announcement was emailed to 51 members and 149 non-member addresses; we printed and mailed to 4 addressees. This issue had 9 contributors.

Building issues

Elevator donation total is \$12,225.00 from 18 donations.

Plexiglass covers for the marquee sign were installed, thank you: John Lichtenheld.

SP Fire Department requires monthly fire extinguisher checks. Thanks to Wood Weller who will do this.

Gilbert Williams collected a large number of un-needed plates and platters downstairs. They are free for the taking.

Sunday Attendance

Program	Date	In Person	Zoom Devices
Spiritual Roundtable	Oct 5	21	5
UU Program	Oct 12	21	14
Free Thought Forum	Oct 19	22	14
UU Program Joint Program	Oct 26	n/a	7
Month Averages		21.3	10.0

Fritz Parks, 11.03.25

**Stewardship Report
Board of Directors Meeting
Free Congregation of Sauk County
November 9, 2025
Corrected**

Balances of five funds within our Infinite Giving portfolio at close of markets on Wednesday November 12, 2025.

These balances will more closely align with donation totals as reported in QuickBooks. They will never be exactly the same because of fees, interest, reinvested dividends, etc. Also, recall that we paid a 25% down payment to the elevator vendor of 16k+, of which 8k came out of the Elevator Funds account.

Investments

	Endowment Fund Endowment	\$415,417.54
	Capital Project Reserve Funds	\$14,812.27
	Elevator Funds Reserve Funds	\$4,277.41
	Portrait Funds Reserve Funds	\$697.32
	Celebration of the Season Reserve Funds	\$1,309.75

**Respectfully submitted,
Glen Johnson**

Pathway Home in Baraboo, is the only homeless shelter in Sauk County. They will host a Holiday Workshop for Wreaths and Porch Pots on Sunday, November 23. See below.



HOLIDAY WORKSHOP

CUSTOMIZE A WREATH OR PORCH POT

OUTLETS AT THE DELLS - SUITE 395
SUNDAY, NOV. 23RD 10AM-3PM
...
ENJOY COCOA, TREATS AND FESTIVE SURPRISES



Pathway Home is partnering with Outlets at the Dells & Van Ert Christmas Tree Farm for our first annual custom wreath or porch pot workshop. Putting a wreath on your front door is a symbol of welcome, warmth, and belonging.

At Pathway Home, we work to help individuals and families experiencing homelessness find a front door of their own. Your participation in this event helps make that possible.

JOIN US!

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23RD

Classes are one hour long and will be held on the hour, starting at 10 am, with the last class starting at 2 pm. Spots are limited, so pre-registration is recommended.



WREATHS \$45
PORCH POTS \$60.

<https://tinyurl.com/PathwayWreath>

Next Mindfulness Meditation Session will be Wednesday, December 10, at 6:30 p.m.

Volunteer Opportunities December 14 and 28

Opening the hall, bring the coffee, hot water, mugs, glasses etc. upstairs.

Closing the hall, taking the coffee etc. down to the kitchen and generally cleaning up, either loading and starting the dishwasher or washing all the cups, etc.

More volunteers opportunities

to be backup for A/V duties,

to serve on the Outreach Committee,

to serve on the Volunteer Committee.

Please contact **Ellen**, eap313@gmail.com or text to 608-963-8451 if you can volunteer.

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:

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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.