



From the Administrator,

Welcome to the newsletter for the Fifteenth of October. You will find contributions from **Dave Siegfried, Nick Schweitzer, Robin Proud, Indivisible, Sauk Prairie Healthcare Foundation, Habitat for Humanity, Brandon Bloch, Jenni Walsh, Cemetery Affairs Committee**. 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
Oct 19	Founders Day	Paul Soglin	My Years as Madison's Mayor
Oct 26	U.U. Program	David Butler	Can We All Get Along?
Nov 2	Spiritual Roundtable	All attending	Your Own Religion

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, see last page.

173rd Stiftungsfest Founders Day Holiday Program and Potluck

Please join us this **Sunday, October 19, at 10:10 a.m., at Park Hall**. We have been celebrating **Stiftungsfest** in since 1853 in remembrance for our congregation's 80 founders. **Paul R. Soglin** will be our Guest Speaker. Soglin served as the 50th, 53rd, and 56th mayor of Madison, Wisconsin, for a total of 22 years in three stints from 1973–2019. He earned bachelor and law degrees from UW-Madison. We welcome Paul today to speak on **My Years as Madison's Mayor**. The program will also be available on Zoom; <http://www.freecongregation.org/sunday-programs.aspx>. Childcare is provided. Bring your friends & family. **Potluck information:** Our members are invited to contribute potluck dishes as follows:

Last name S-Z: entree dishes; **last name L-R:** side dishes; **last name A-K:** salads, breads.

Our kitchen crew will be responsible for the desserts. They will meet on **Friday, October 17, at 1:00 p.m.**, for a dessert-making-baking workshop. The workshop is open to all; they will need an evening volunteer to clean up after all the baking is done; contact **Gilbert Williams** earthdogghw@gmail.com or phone 608.574.6656.

We need volunteers to set up for the potluck. Please arrive at 9:00 a.m. Set up coffee/hot water/table linens/table-ware/serving-ware for the meal. Table decorations are welcome. Let Fritz know if you can help.

What I Believe Now

The Adult Ed discussion group, **What I Believe Now**, will meet **on Zoom** as usual on the fourth **Monday, October 27**, at **6:30 p.m.**. The topic will be: **Identity**. 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.

Rev. Sandra Ingham, 1944 - 2025

Robin Proud has reported the passing of the **Rev. Sandra Ingham**, who served this congregation as Associate Speaker until August of 2019. Her obituary is available online: [Obituary information for Sandra L. Ingham](#).

Welcome to 4 New members

Our adult member now count is now 70. Please welcome David Eagan, Carol Benson, Meghan Pierce, and Renee Pierce.

From Brandon Bloch

Thank you so much for inviting me to give a talk at the Free Congregation, and for your kind reception last week. I really enjoyed the opportunity to share my research with the congregation, and I especially appreciated the lively Q&A. I wanted to let you know that Harvard University Press is offering a discount code to purchase my book directly from the press's website: [book purchase link](#). The book can be purchased for a **20% discount by entering the code RPG20** at the purchase page. The discount code is **valid until Oct. 31**. I would be grateful if you could also share the discount code with attendees at the talk who may be interested in purchasing the book. Thank you again, and I hope we will have the opportunity to remain in touch! Best wishes, Brandon Bloch, Assistant Professor of History, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Songs That Shaped America: Music of Patriots and Protests

Saturday, November 1, in **Park Hall, 307 Polk St., Sauk City, WI**, a concert sponsored by the **Indivisible groups of Baraboo and Sauk Prairie** and the **Free Congregation**. Featuring musicians from Baraboo and Sauk Prairie including **Mark Tully, Wrannock Celtic Trio, Zach Ott & Gretchen Roltgen** and many more! Admission: Free will offering, beer, wine, soda, and snacks for sale. Free will donation for baked goods.

Free Medication Take Back Day, Saturday October 25, 9 am to noon

New Location: Sauk Prairie Police Department, 640 13th St., Prairie du Sac. **Sponsored by Sauk Prairie Healthcare Foundation**. [Handling instructions](#)

Living the Dream Gala for Habitat for Humanity

Annual Fundraiser for HFH Wisconsin River Area. **Thursday, November 13, 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.** at **Ho Chunk Gaming - Wisconsin Dells**. Live auction, silent auction and raffle. [Tickets link](#)



Cemetery Affairs Committee Andrew C. Roll Cemetery Summer/early autumn 2025

We are grateful to the Ochsner Family Foundation for donating and facilitating the design, creation, of the Edward Ochsner Memorial Bench, now in-place at our cemetery! (Edward is not buried at our Free Thinkers Cemetery on Slotty Road; he served the Union, and died behind Confederacy lines during the Civil War.) Contact Gigi or Carl if you would like to learn more about his life.

Special thanks to Carl, Judy, and Bob Ochsner for making this vision a reality!

We mourn the death of John Grotophorst on July 21, 2025. John was a long-time member of our Cemetery Affairs Committee and his ancestors were among the first to be buried at our cemetery. John was 80 years old, and never missed attending a CAC meeting. His life-long home farm was in Honey Creek.. For those of us fortunate enough to spend time with him, John's stories of family, residents, and Sauk County culture and history were memorable!

Hats off (once again!!!) to **Bob Ochsner** for his speedy response to a large White Pine limb down in a summer storm and mangling a section of our historic fence. Bob is our angel in monitoring cemetery physical grounds and problem-solving with his connections to talented local workers!

Appreciations to our faithful next-door neighbors, **Kristin Enge** and family, who have voluntarily stepped into the role of monitoring our Bald Eagle nest. We are honored that three years ago, the eagles chose one of our White Pines as a roost and brood site. Kristin has been pro-active in opting for training and on-going reporting to WDNR and keeping CAC posted on on-going nest activities.

Big thanks to **Maria Hansa**, our CAC treasurer, for her ongoing service of "keeping the books", and paying the bills.

CAC is always interested in FCSC members who might wish to join our committee! Contact Gigi with questions...



Judy Ochsner, Carl Ochsner, Donna Ochsner (L-R)

FCSC Board Meeting Highlights - Board Secretary Jenni Walsh

September has been a busy month at Park Hall. Highlights include a successful concert on September 20th featuring Shawndell Marks and her bands Spare Bones and Gin, Chocolate, and Bottle Rockets. Approximately 50 people attended the shows. A special thanks for the volunteers who made this event a success - Kathi Kemp, Susie Tatone, David Roberts, Joe and Natasha Frost and all of the bakers. Upcoming rental events include the Sauk Prairie Theatre Guild rehearsals for the Wizard of Oz; bi-weekly Mindful Meditation Sessions with Diane Matzke; and Songs of Patriotism and Protest sponsored by the Baraboo and Sauk Prairie Indivisible. Fritz recently updated our website and added an elevator donation link. We have raised approximately \$12,000 toward the elevator replacement and would appreciate any donations to this major project. There were holes in the ceiling of the shed, which have been patched. We will most likely need to replace the shed and are checking into donating it to the Sauk City Fire Department for a controlled burn. Work continues on updating the bathrooms. There will be a workday on Sunday, November 30th for those interested in helping patch, paint, and replace flooring. Next board meeting will be **November 9, at 11:30 a.m.**

Building and Grounds Report

10/9/25

Elevator

Installation of the new elevator has been rescheduled for March of next year (2026). The vendors original schedule for late this year conflicted with our holiday programming. We have raised \$12,000 to date for the new elevator. Pushing the project back will give us another few months will give us the opportunity to raise more funds. Hopefully we will be able to keep the old unit running until it can be replaced

Shed

We were able to put a temporary patch on the shed roof at the back of the property this summer. That work should get us through the winter, but we need to decide what to do with the structure and its contents next year. We will need to spend some major dollars on reconstructing the building or removing it (along with the contents).

Trees

There is still a major portion of the bass tree trunk that needs to be removed. If anyone is in need of firewood they are welcome to remove it. There are also a couple of large tree limbs that we still need to cut up and removed.

Sign

Our feathered friends have been having another go at our sign out front. We are currently considering some preventative measures to fend them off.

Administrator's Report

October 12, 2025 Board Meeting

Administrator September Projects of Note

The bookkeeping for the very successful September 20 Concert is complete.

Income: \$930.90

Expenses: \$438.27 (includes the bands' share \$269.66)

Profit: \$492.63

15 hours of Support for September 20 Concert: program website with online ticket link & concert info, program Square card-reader system (team members, sales items), cash handling/deposit, project bookkeeping (thanks to Dave Siegfried for bookkeeping advice). These hours are paid out of Admin's extra hours contract.

Support to Cemetery Committee for bench project and burial intent for 4 members.

Winter musician duties arranged with Kimberly Fisher.

2 new childcare substitute workers used in September (thanks to Ellen Paul for invaluable help). Substitute roster now includes 2 young ladies.

Website was programmed to accept Elevator Fund Donations to replace the Faithify campaign that was not funded. Donations will be processed in our PayPal account.

Four new members have recently signed our book. Adult members count is now 70. Member Directory was emailed to members on September 27.

Facebook

Sunday program notices and newsletter announcements are posted each month.

Newsletter

The October 1 Newsletter Announcement was emailed to 51 members and 145 non-member addresses; we printed and mailed to 4 addressees. This issue had 4 contributors.

Building issues

Congregation approval for elevator project specification signed for Arrow Lift. Construction has been moved to late March 2026.

Sunday Attendance

Program	Date	In Person	Zoom Devices
Spiritual Roundtable Advice You Wish...	9/7	23	1
UU Program Pema Antoniotti	9/14	18	12
Free Thought Forum Brandon Bloch	9/21	22	11
UU Program Pema Antoniotti	9/28	20	8
September Averages		20.8	8.0

Fritz Parks, October 8, 2025

Free Congregation of Sauk County
BUDGET VS. ACTUALS: BUDGET_FY26_P&L - FY26 P&L
 July 2025 - June 2026

			Total
	Actual	Budget	% of Budget
REVENUE			
401 Pledges	31,220.24	47,740.24	65.40 %
402 Donations	880.40	4,000.00	22.01 %
403 Sunday Collections	465.00	1,500.00	31.00 %
405 Events & Rental Income	938.50	3,500.00	26.81 %
409 From Endowment			
409.2 Fund Operations		1,471.26	
Total 409 From Endowment		1,471.26	
Total Revenue	33,504.14	58,211.50	57.56 %
GROSS PROFIT	33,504.14	58,211.50	57.56 %
EXPENDITURES			
601 Insurance	805.28	4,500.00	17.90 %
610 Building Maintenance			
611 Cleaning staff	243.00	1,040.00	23.37 %
612 Snow Removal		500.00	
613 Grounds-Mowing	300.00	1,700.00	17.65 %
614 Cleaning supplies		250.00	
615 Elevator		1,000.00	
616 Security		1,000.00	
619 Maintenance & Repair - Other		3,000.00	
Total 610 Building Maintenance	543.00	8,490.00	6.40 %
620 Utilities			
621 Electric	348.69	2,000.00	17.43 %
622 Gas	48.90	1,900.00	2.57 %
623 Garbage Pickup	110.25	441.00	25.00 %
Total 620 Utilities	507.84	4,341.00	11.70 %
630 Programs			
631 Speakers	670.00	2,010.00	33.33 %
633 Sound System/Zoom Equip	167.90	300.00	55.97 %
634 Music	600.00	2,760.00	21.74 %
636 Associate Speaker	1,800.00	6,900.00	26.09 %
637 Mileage for Associate Speakers	72.50	537.50	13.49 %
639 Programs - Coffee & Misc	70.92	200.00	35.46 %
Total 630 Programs	3,381.32	12,707.50	26.61 %
640 Dues			
641 UUA		500.00	
642 Baraboo Chamber of Commerce		200.00	
643 Chamber of Commerce Dues	41.00	200.00	20.50 %
Total 640 Dues	41.00	900.00	4.56 %

Cash Basis Tue, Oct 7 1:33AM GMT-7

			Total
	Actual	Budget	% of Budget
660 Administration			
661 Office Expenses	99.67	1,500.00	6.64 %
662 Advertising	58.12	250.00	23.25 %
663 Telephone/Internet	541.66	1,700.00	31.86 %
664 Website/Cloud acct	2.97	500.00	0.59 %
666 Infinite Giving Monthly Stock Gifting Service	297.00	1,188.00	25.00 %
Total 660 Administration	999.42	5,138.00	19.45 %
670 Staff			
671 Administrator pay	3,885.00	13,875.00	28.00 %
672 Taxes	398.30	1,400.00	28.45 %
673 Payroll Services	695.48	2,600.00	26.75 %
677 Facility Coordinator	878.75	1,800.00	48.82 %
678 Childcare provider	293.88	960.00	30.61 %
Total 670 Staff	6,151.41	20,635.00	29.81 %
700 Other Budgeted Expense			
701 Celebration of the Season	102.20	1,000.00	10.22 %
702 Portraits in the Hall	3,330.65	500.00	666.13 %
Total 700 Other Budgeted Expense	3,432.85	1,500.00	228.86 %
Total Expenditures	15,862.12	58,211.50	27.25 %
NET OPERATING REVENUE	17,642.02	0.00	0.00%
NET REVENUE	\$17,642.02	\$0.00	0.00%

Facilities Coordinator Report

Jenni Walsh

10.12.25 FCSC Board Meeting

Events at Park Hall:

- Shawndell Marks Concerts – September 20th
- Bi-Weekly: Mindfulness Sessions with Diane Matzke, Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30pm
- Sauk Prairie Theatre Guild Wizard of Oz – September 29th through December 10th (Auditions and Rehearsals)

Upcoming:

- Saturday, November 1st: Songs of America sponsored by Sauk Prairie, Baraboo Indivisible Organizations, and Free Congregation of Sauk County
- December – 2 family holiday parties

Park Hall Available for Rent

With the holiday season upon us, remember that Park Hall is a great space to hold holiday parties and family gatherings. Members get discounted rental rates. Please contact **Jenni Walsh, Facilities Coordinator**, at walshjenni77@gmail.com to inquire about potential dates and pricing.

Personnel Committee

This committee will be starting its annual review of employee contracts, performance, and compensation, and we would welcome other congregation members for this task. Please contact Nick Schweitzer, jnschweitzer@gmail.com, if you're interested in joining the committee.

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:

[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. [Newsletter Submissions](#) use the Contact Us form at bottom.