



From the Administrator,

Welcome to the newsletter for the First of September. You will find contributions from **Dave Siegfried, Nick Schweitzer, SP Against Hunger, Jennifer Walsh, & Christine Meiners**. 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
Sept 6	Spiritual Roundtable	All attending	The Nuclear Family: the Gold Standard
Sept 13	U.U. Program/Board Mtg	Rob Brink	Resistance Ethics: Greatest Hits of Jesus
Sept 20	Free Thought Forum	Daniel Tokarczyk	Communication with Hearing Impaired

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 **September 13, 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:Dave.Siegfried@gmail.com) so that it may be added to the agenda.

What I Believe Now

The Adult Ed discussion group, **What I Believe Now**, will meet **on Zoom** as usual on the fourth **Monday, September 28, at 6:30 p.m.** The topic is pending. 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.

SP Against Hunger Pack Event

Join 6:8 Sauk Prairie Against Hunger on **October 29-31**, for the Pack Event, where nutritious food meals are packaged to be distributed around the world to children in need of life-saving food. Donate or sign up at MakingServicePersonal.org.

The Free Thought Forum Program, September 20

Our guest speaker will be hearing expert **Daniel Tokarczyk**. His topic: **How To Communicate With the Hard of Hearing**. This 3rd Sunday Program will start at **10:10 a.m. in Park Hall** and also on Zoom (see info on last page). Childcare will be provided. Please join us.

July 12, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes

Board Members

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

- ✓ Gil Williams, Member-at-Large
- ✓ Nick Schweitzer, Past President
- John Lichtenheld, Building and Grounds – excused

Other:

- ✓ Christine Meiners, Facilities Coordinator
- ✓ Fritz Parks, Non-Member Attendee

Meeting Called to Order: 11:57 a.m.

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

Staff Reports:

- Fritz Parks, Administrator's Report: See written report. There has been a slight issue with the Elevator. The control that automatically opens the door isn't working properly. We had a service call on Friday but it wasn't fixed, so Fritz will contact them again for another service call. Nick Schweitzer mentioned that he and Eleanor Chiquoine conducted a 15 minute interview with WMTV Madison.
- Christine Meiners, Facilities Coordinator Report: See written report. Christine requested that Donna Neuwirth and Jay Salinas get access to our key code/box so that they can bring in artists to view the space. The board discussed and agreed that we will allow the code only to Donna and Jay.

Treasurers Report: Joe Frost. See Written Report. There is some confusion regarding the YTD Budget column and what exactly it represents. Gil Williams moved to approve the Treasurers Report. Kathi Kemp 2nd motion. Approved.

Standing Committee Reports:

- Stewardship Committee, Glen Johnson: See Written Report.
- Third Sunday Committee, Kathi Kemp. No Report.
- Religious Education for Youth and Children, Susie Tatone. On Hiatus
- Buildings and Grounds, John Lichtenheld. Lynne Roberts and Gil Williams will be planting grasses under the trees on our property.
- Personnel, Dave Siegfried: No Report.

Continued July 12 Board Meeting Minutes

- Membership and Outreach, Kathi Kemp and Jenni Walsh: We are starting to collaborate with Christine Meiners to schedule a Business After 5pm event at our Congregation through the Baraboo and Sauk Prairie Chambers.
- Cemetery Affairs: Gigi LaBudde. No Report.

Ad-Hoc Committees:

- Winter Solstice Gathering. Gil Williams reported that he is still trying to figure out food and program for this event.
- Volunteers, Nick Schweitzer. No Report.
- Inventory Committee: No Report.
- Portraits in the Hall, Melanie Weller. No Report.

Old Business:

- New Member Gift Bags: No Report.
- What FCSC Believes Card: Kathi Kemp presented a draft of a formal statement. Nick Schweitzer also presented a draft that he has shared with our board before. We discussed who the audience for this statement is for and came to the conclusion that we need to have two statements – one for prospective members and one for our current congregation. It was agreed Kathi Kemp, Nick Schweitzer, and Susie Tatone will work as a committee to develop a new statement. Anyone else is welcome to join this group if interested.
- Fifth Sunday Workday: No Report

New Business:

- We have a member in financial need and Nick Schweitzer proposed that we provide this person with a donation from our Mission in Motion/Membership Emergency Fund. Kathi Kemp moved that we take \$2,000 Mission in Motion/Membership Emergency Fund, with the understanding that it is a gift, not a loan. Nick Schweitzer 2nd motion
- Recording Third Sundays – Nick Schweitzer would like our Congregation to record our Third Sunday speakers. Nick is going to take on a leadership role and work with David Roberts on this. We decided to table this agenda item, for now, and we will keep this item under Old Business for future meeting updates.

Adjourn: Dave Siegfried moved to adjourn. Kathi Kemp 2nd motion. Approved. 1:17 p.m.

What's Happening at Park Hall - Christine Meiners, Facilities Coordinator

Our facility continues to be busy with activities, gatherings, and events that bring our community together. Here's a look at what has recently taken place and what's coming up.

Recent & Ongoing Activities

- **Mindfulness Sessions:** Held Wednesdays from **6:30–7:30 p.m.** and hosted by Diane Matzke, these ongoing sessions provide an opportunity for relaxation, reflection, and connection. Our **September sessions will be held on September 9 and 30.**
- **Celebration of Life:** A Celebration of Life gathering honoring **Michael Whaley** was held on **August 2.**
- **4-H Youth Development Education:** On **August 11**, a youth day camp was held at Park Hall, focusing on teaching children about habitats.

Looking Ahead

We have several community events scheduled throughout the fall and holiday season:

- **September 21–November 19:** The **Sauk Prairie Theatre Guild** will hold auditions September 21–23 for its upcoming production of *Miracle on 34th Street*. Additionally, rehearsals will be held at Park Hall Monday–Thursday through November, with performances taking place at the River Arts Center **December 4–6.**
- **September 26 at 3:00 p.m.:** A private outdoor wedding ceremony will be followed by an indoor cocktail hour. An outdoor rehearsal is planned for the day before.
- **October 9–11:** The **WormFarm Institute** will present “**A Decomposium**,” utilizing both Park Hall and the Cemetery location. The event is a three-day, multidisciplinary symposium that explores the science, art, and rituals of decay and renewal. WormFarm celebrates decomposition as a generative, creative process that breaks down matter, releases essential elements, and supports new growth. Visit their website to explore the exhibits and schedule: [WormFarm Institute|Decomposium 2026](#). The Hall will be used for set up throughout the week.
- **November 26:** Family Thanksmas Gathering
- **December 12:** Family Gathering
- **December 13:** Family Christmas Gathering
- **December 19:** Family Gathering

We're pleased to see Park Hall being used for educational programs, community activities, celebrations, and family gatherings. We look forward to a busy and welcoming fall and holiday season!



Painted by William “Bill” Dyke, Madison’s mayor from 1969 to 1973

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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