

The Free Congregation of Sauk County
A Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Converging Cultures at the Portage

Free Thought Forum

April 19, 2026

Adam Novey, Guest Speaker

Welcome and Announcements	Fritz Parks
Speaker introduction	John Kolb
Presentation: Converging Cultures	Adam Novey
Congregational Dialogue:	All
Closing:	John

Adam Novey will trace the experience of mixed Indigenous and European families' through turbulent times. He will present the factors which led to the establishment of an Indian sub-agency—essentially an embassy—between the Ho-Chunk Nation and U.S. government at Portage, and discover how these peoples' lives were interwoven with this story from the 1830s to the present.

Adam Novey is Executive Director and Curator of the Historic Indian Agency House in Portage.

307 Polk Street
Sauk City, WI 53583
608-643-3131
www.freecongregation.org

A Little About Us,

This congregation began as the Freie Gemeinde (The Free Congregation) in 1852. Its founders—most of whom came to the United States from the German states and principalities after the failed liberal revolutions of the 1840s—were seeking freedom to practice their beliefs, express their thoughts, and search for the truth without interference from government and church. Park Hall, still known locally as Freethinkers Hall, was constructed in 1884, designed by Sauk City born architect Alfred Clas.

Of the many Free Congregations established in America by free-thinking German immigrants in the 19th century, most did not survive the First World War and the pervasive anti-German prejudice that accompanied it. Only a dozen or so Free Congregations survived World War II. In 1955, faced with declining numbers and an aging membership, our congregation affiliated with the American Unitarian Association, a movement for liberal religious thought and practice. In 1961 the Unitarian Association and the Universalist Denomination merged, and we took on the name that we bear today: The Free Congregation of Sauk County—a Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

Our values and the diversity of our heritage are reflected in the programs and services that we hold at Park Hall. The 2nd and 4th Sunday programs generally follow a UU order of service. These include reflections by our Speaker, a visiting UU minister, or other guest. The first Sunday of the month we hold a roundtable Spiritual Reflection Hour on a variety of topics. The Third Sunday is our Free Thought Forum, in which a guest presenter engages an historical, cultural, philosophical, or social issue of special significance to this free religious community. Child care is provided every Sunday.

Upcoming Sunday Programs

Date	Program	Speaker	Topic
Apr 26	U.U. Program	Penny Andrews	Tending the Unified Field
May 3	Spiritual Roundtable	All attending	Responsibilities and Obligations
May 10	U.U. Program	Rob Brink	



We are proud to support our LGBTQ members and friends.