

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

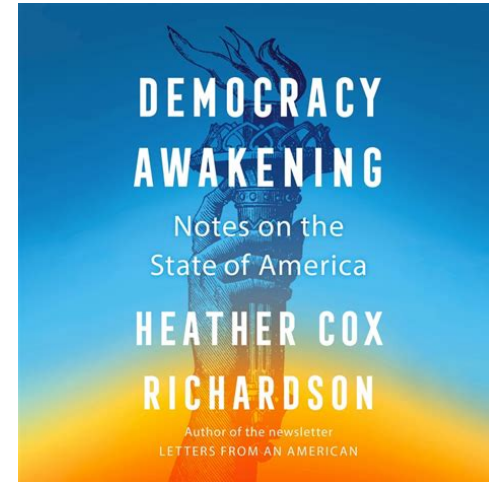
Date	Program	Speaker	Topic
Dec 29	5th Sunday	All welcome	Work Day at Park Hall
Jan 5	Spiritual Roundtable	All attending	Toxic Femininity: Mean Girls
Jan 12	U.U. Program	Penny Andrews	TBA



We are proud to support our LGBTQ members and friends.

The Free Congregation of Sauk County
A Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

December 22, 2024



The State of the Union and How We Got Here

David Butler

Associate Speaker of the FCSC

“We have frequently printed the word
Democracy. Yet I cannot too often repeat
that it is a word the real gist of which still
sleeps, quite unawaken’d”

Walt Whitman

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December 22, 2024

The State of the Union

Gathering: **Prelude in C major**, J.S. Bach Sam Roberts

Welcome David Butler

Story for All Ages: **Grace for President** David

Announcements Fritz Parks

Lighting of the Candle David
Quotes from Alexis de Tocqueville

Prelude: **Edelweiss**, Rodgers and Hammerstein Sam

Opening Hymn: **#159 This is My Song** Sam

Joys and Concerns David

Offering: **Interlude 3**, Chip Davis Sam

Meditation / Reading: David
The Gettysburg Address by President Abraham Lincoln

How We Got Here

Reflection: The State of the Union David

Dialogue Congregation

Closing Hymn: **#241 In the Bleak Midwinter** Sam

Closing Reading: A Poem by Venice Williams David

Postlude: **Mist**, Chip Davis Sam

Announcements and Events

The Board will meet Sunday, January 12 at 11:30 a.m. in the hall. Please contact Susie Tatone with requests for the agenda.

Mindfulness Teachings, Wednesdays, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. with Diane Matzke. No teaching on January 1 or 8.

Please sign up for Coffee Set Up and Clean Up.

To keep up with the dates and topics of upcoming programs, announcements, news and other content, you have several options:

Our **newsletter** is published on the 1st and 15th of every month and is available on our website. Please send your contact information to our administrator to receive issue announcements.

Our Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/FCSC2017/>

Our website: www.freecongregation.org.