

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
Mar 2	Spiritual Roundtable	All attending	Original Sin, Human Nature
Mar 9	U.U. Program	Penny Andrews	Essentials of Living Systems
Mar 16	Free Thought Forum	Ann Calhoun	Nature Conservancy



We are proud to support our LGBTQ members and friends.

The Free Congregation of Sauk County A Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

February 23, 2025



Wintering

The Power of Rest and Retreat in Difficult Times

David Butler

Associate Speaker of the FCSC

307 Polk Street
Sauk City, WI 53583
608-643-3131

www.freecongregation.org

February 23, 2025

Wintering

Gathering: **Prelude in C major**, J.S. Bach Kimberly Fisher

Welcome David Butler

Story for All Ages: **And the People Stayed Home**, Kitty O'Meara David

Announcements Fritz Parks

Lighting of the Candle David
Life Plans, a poem by J Shannon Webster

Prelude: **A Beautiful Distraction**, Michele McLaughlin Kimberly

Opening Hymn: **#57 All Beautiful the March of Days** Kimberly

Joys and Concerns David

Offering: **Winter Solstice**, Michael Scott Kimberly

Meditation David
From "Late March", Wintering, Katherine May

Silence

Power of Rest & Retreat in Difficult Times

Reflection: **Wintering: the Power of Rest & Retreat in Difficult Times**

Dialogue Congregation

Closing Hymn: **#55 The Dark of Winter** Kimberly

Closing Reading: David
A Blessing for Traveling in the Dark, Jan Richardson

Postlude: **Going Home**, Wayne Gratz Kimberly

Announcements and Events

The Board will meet **Sunday, March 9, at 11:30 a.m.** in the Hall and on Zoom. Contact a Board member with your suggestions for the agenda.

Please sign up for **Coffee set up** and/or **Clean up**.

Member Pledge Potluck Meal, after the program, **March 16**.

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.