

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
July 20	Free Thought Forum	Sauk Prairie Students	Life in High School 2025
July 27	Joint Program and Potluck in Madison with Prairie UU		
	Free Congregation & Prairie speakers		Hope in a Hopeless World
Aug 3	Spiritual Roundtable	All attending	How Animals Make Us Human



We are proud to support our LGBTQ members and friends.

The Free Congregation of Sauk County
A Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

July 13, 2025

Matilda Joslyn Gage Suffragist and Freethinker



Robin Proud Associate Speaker of the FCSC

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

www.freecongregation.org

July 13, 2025

Matilda Joslyn Gage

Gathering: **Prelude in C major**, J.S. Bach Marita Kelter

Welcome

Story for All Ages: **Don't Cross the Line**, Isabel Minhos Martins Robin

Announcements Fritz Parks

Lighting of the Candle, Robin
Reading **When all Humanity Works for Humanity...**, Matilda J Gage

Prelude: **Russian Waltz**, Elena Katz-Chernin Marita

Opening Hymn: **#107 - Now Sing We of the Brave of Old** Marita

Joys and Concerns Robin

Offering: **Longings**, Eugenie Rocherolle Marita

Reading: from Matilda Joslyn Gage Robin
**The most stupendous system of organized robbery known
has been that of the church towards woman...**

Suffragist and Freethinker

Reflection: **Matilda Joslyn Gage, Suffragist & Freethinker** Robin

Dialogue Congregation

Closing Hymn: **#119 - Once to Every Soul and Nation** Marita

Closing Words from Matilda Joslyn Gage Robin
**Do not allow the Church or State
to govern your thought or dictate your judgment...**

Postlude: **Big Tease**, Eugenie Rocherolle Marita

Announcements and Events

The Board will meet at **11:30 a.m.** today, in the Hall and on Zoom.

Mindfulness Meditation Group with Diane Matzke, **6:30 p.m.,
Wednesdays, July 16 and July 30**, in the Hall. All invited.

Members may choose any tasty potluck dish for the **Joint
Program on July 27, in Madison.**

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.