

From the Administrator,

Welcome to the newsletter for the Fifteenth of October. You will find contributions from Nick Schweitzer, Meghan Pierce, SP Healthcare, and SP Area Food Pantry. 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
Oct 25	U.U. Program	Pema Antoniotti	Pending
Nov 1	Spiritual Roundtable	All present	Men: Fair Targets?
Nov 8	U.U. Program	Penny Andrews	Pending

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).

174th Stiftungsfest Founders Day Program, this Sunday

Please join us for our **174th Stiftungsfest Founders Day Program**, **Sunday, October 18, at 10:10 a.m. in Park Hall** and on **Zoom.** First celebrated in 1853, we continue to celebrate and thank our founders each Third Sunday of October. The guest speaker will be member **Nick Schweitzer.** Nick has served the Congregation as Board President and Vice-President. He maintains a relationship with a free thought congregation in Germany and with the International Association for Religious Freedom. His most recent visit to the congregation in Germany was for an IARF convention there in September 2025. A potluck dinner will follow the program. Come as you are, all welcome. (see last page info to join Zoom)



Coalition to End Ice Contracts in Sauk County by Meghan Pierce

I am a part of, and so want to introduce, the **Coalition to End Ice Contracts in Sauk County** to the congregation. We are a growing coalition of Sauk County residents, faith leaders, farmers and business owners who are standing up for our immigrant neighbors, as Sheriff Chip Meister signed 287(g) agreements with ICE that deputize local law enforcement to detain people for immigration purposes and put them into deportation proceedings. Sauk County is one of only 20 counties in Wisconsin that have voluntarily entered into these agreements, and one of only five who have signed a "jail enforcement model" contract. Federal data show that counties that have signed 287(g) agreements funnel more people into the jail-to-deportation pipeline than comparable counties across Wisconsin. Working in solidarity with immigrant families, we seek to stop our local police from targeting our immigrant community and to educate residents about Sauk County's expanding role in President Trump's extreme, anti-immigration agenda. For more information on 287(g) and Sauk County, please see our webpage. https://www.indivisiblesaukpr.org/end-ice-sauk

As a coalition, we are demanding that the Sauk County Sheriff 1) cancel all current 287(g) contracts with ICE, 2) refrain from entering into any further 287(g) contracts with ICE, and 3) cancel all agreements that call for cooperation with ICE or any agency of the Department of Homeland Security without a judicial order.

We cannot do any of this without support from the community. Please consider taking action by:

Sign our petition. https://forms.gle/QS6SSp73vzQrD4Pv8

Call or email Sheriff Chip Meister and the Sauk County board to register your opposition to these contracts. Find call / email examples at Find call/email example scripts

Share out our webpage and call-to-actions. Write a letter to the editor about this issue. Talk to your friends to make them aware of what is happening.

If you'd like to help us organize and expand this coalition, contact us via this form.

If you represent a Sauk County business, organization, or faith community that would like to join this coalition, please contact us via this form. https://forms.gle/U6uYAU7zh3tgrHE46

Or please share with those you think may be interested in joining the coalition.

We hope you'll consider taking action! Together, we can build a Sauk County where no one is afraid to attend school, church, or community gatherings, where neighbors help neighbors, and where everyone is free to thrive.

Medication Take Back Day

Free disposal of medications to protect our environment and drinking water. **Saturday, October 24, 9 a.m. to Noon, Sauk Prairie Police Department, 640 13th St., Prairie du Sac**. For information and Packing Instructions.

What I Believe Now

The Adult Ed discussion group, **What I Believe Now**, will meet **on Zoom Monday, October 26,** at **6:30 p.m.** The topic will be: **Consciousness session 2**. 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.

What's Happening at Park Hall

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 October sessions are on **October 14th and 28th**.
- **September 21–November 19:** The **Sauk Prairie Theatre Guild** continues to hold rehearsals for its upcoming production of *Miracle on 34th Street* at Park Hall, Monday–Thursday evenings through November, with performances taking place at the River Arts Center **December 4–6**.
- **September 26, 2026:** A private outdoor wedding ceremony was held, followed by an indoor cocktail hour. The weather was beautiful for this outside wedding, held in front of the gazebo, with musicians performing from inside of the gazebo overlooking the guests.
- **October 9–11:** The **WormFarm Institute** hosted the highly attended event, **"A Decomposium,"** utilizing both Park Hall and the Cemetery grounds. This three-day, multidisciplinary symposium explored the science, art, and rituals of decay and renewal. The event welcomed hundreds of visitors to our venues over the course of three days. This event celebrated decomposition as a generative and creative process—one that breaks down matter, releases essential elements, and creates the conditions for new growth. The Free Congregation shares many of these values, including a commitment to curiosity, thoughtful exploration, community engagement, and a deeper appreciation for the natural world. We are pleased that Park Hall and the Cemetery could serve as gathering places for an event that encouraged meaningful conversation, creative expression, and new perspectives.
- **October 11:** A Celebration of Life was held in memory of Susan Larkin, bringing together family and friends who traveled from near and far to honor her life, share cherished memories, and celebrate the lasting impact she had on those who knew and loved her.

Looking Ahead

We have several private family gatherings scheduled throughout the holiday season:

- **November 26:** Family Thanksmas Gathering
- **December 12:** Family Gathering
- **December 13:** Family Christmas Gathering
- **December 19:** Family Gathering
- **December 20:** Winter Solstice Celebration held by the Free Congregation.

Please reach out to Christine Meiners at freeconevents@gmail.com
for assistance in booking the Hall for your event.

Photos from the Wormfarm Institute's Decomposium events, Oct 9 - 11, 2026









Ofrenda and Aztec Ceremonial Procession by the Mexican Folk Art Collective and Driftless Curiosity. Photos by Ellen Paul





Rites of Passage, musical group Worn Mantle. Photos by Ellen Paul



Decomposure: A Panel on Decay and Re-form (Nance Klehm, Curt Meine (moderator), Anand Pandian + Aishwarya Veerabahu)



What Remains Panel, Dustin Duve, Meghan Allynn Johnson, Andra Olnev-Larson



What Remains Panel on Death and Renewal, participants, photos by Eleanor Chiquoine



Celtic Death Songs, Mike Mossman & Lisa Hartman

SP Area Food Pantry

The congregation is a regular supporter of the Food Pantry with volunteers to staff food distributions. Now that the Pantry has purchased a new building on Sycamore Street in Sauk City, there is opportunity to contribute to the Fundraising Campaign for the new building. You will find a donation button at this link: Donate

How to join our Zoom Sunday Programs.

1. Go to the Sunday Programs tab of our website:
   https://freecongregation.org/sunday-programs/
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

Other Useful Links:

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I welcome your submissions to this newsletter. Send your events, announcements, photos, and recipes to me at Newsletter Submissions, or use the **Contact Us** form at bottom of the page.