



From the Administrator,

Welcome to the newsletter for the Fifteenth of April. You will find contributions from **Dave Siegfried, Nick Schweitzer, Adam Novey, Susie Tatone, Gil Williams, John Lichtenheld & Christine Meiners**. 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
Apr 19	Free Thought Forum	Adam Novey	Converging Cultures at the Portage
Apr 26	U.U. Program	Penny Andrews	Tending the Unified Field
May 3	Spiritual Roundtable	All attending	Moral Responsibilities and Obligations

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).

Board of Directors Meeting

The **Board** of the Free Congregation will meet on **May 10 at Park Hall at 11:30 a.m.** If you have an issue for us to an address, please email Dave Siegfried, President of the Board at [Dave Siegfried](mailto:Dave.Siegfried@freecongregation.org) so that it may be added to the agenda.

What I Believe Now

The Adult Ed discussion group, **What I Believe Now**, will meet **on Zoom** on the fourth **Monday, April 27, at 6:30 p.m.** The topic will be **Regulations and Rules**. 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.

Looking to share rental expenses

A quiet, considerate, retired woman artist is seeking to rent a large room area or small studio apartment in the Sauk City/Spring Green area. Her familiarity with the Free Congregation suggests to her that she might find a living space with like-minded people who share her values and interest in art. She has lived in Spring Green for the past 10+ years and has excellent rental references. Please contact **Jen**, 608-438-5356, artcattitude37@gmail.com.



Free Thought Forum, Sunday, April 19, 10:10 a.m.

This month's **Free Thought Forum** will feature guest speaker **Adam Novey**, **Executive Director and Curator** at the **Historic Indian Agency House**. Adam's topic will be **Converging Cultures at the Portage**. The narrow watershed divide between the **Fox and Wisconsin Rivers** led to these waterways becoming a major corridor of travel on a continent-wide scale from early times in Wisconsin's Indigenous past. As European cultures became a part of the area's story, this "carrying place" between rivers served as a focal point of intercultural exchange. A substantial mixed Indigenous/European (Métis) community formed at Portage as a result. This community helps illustrate fascinating dynamics of the interactions of cultures in our past, yet this group of people is all but forgotten today.

Join Adam Novey in tracing these Métis families' experiences through turbulent times. Investigate 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 Métis peoples' lives were interwoven with this story from the 1830s to the present.

The program begins at **10:10 a.m.** with brief announcements. Discussion and questions follow the presentation. We usually adjourn after 11:20 a.m. Please join us.

Thanks from Susie

There is good news in politics. No really! Our own **Susie Tatone** won her campaign for a seat on the Sauk County Board. Finally, we are getting some progressive and Free Thinkers where we need them most: seated at the table. In addition to winning the Supreme Court, many progressive candidates also won their districts county-wide, indicating the tide is turning. Many, many, thanks to all who helped with the campaign. Special thanks to Ellen Paul as campaign manager, CFO, field canvasser, and Master Political Operative. Thanks again to all.

Outside Work Day Report from Gil Willians

On March 29, outside work was on the forward, or southern third of the property. On the east side, the areas under 3 trees are ready for mowing. On the west side, we pulled old plantings in the prairie garden and used the chipper shredder to make a mulch for the garden area. There is still much to do.

Lunch was pizza with good community and a discussion on the plans for this year.

We agreed that we need to upgrade the planting in the front gardens. Volunteers and suggestions are welcome.

Facilities Coordinator Report - April 12, 2026

PAST/ONGOING EVENTS

Bi-Monthly - Wednesdays- Mindfulness sessions - Diane Matzke- 6:30-7:30 pm

FUTURE SCHEDULED EVENTS

April 25th 10am - private event - lower level

May 13th - Pioneer Day (Friends of Sauk City History/Connie Konkle) Required stop this year.
2 groups of 25 children at a time, led by teachers giving history.

Aug 2nd - Celebration of Life - Michael Whaley (2 - 5pm) pending contract

September 26, 2026 3:00pm - private wedding ceremony with rehearsal.

Wednesday, October 7 – Monday, October 12, 2026 - WormFarm Institute: A Decomposition,
using both Park Hall space and Cemetery location

November 26, 2026 – private event

December 12, 2026 – private event

December 19, 2026 – private event

OTHER/PENDING

December - private event - Date TBD, pending contract

Bathroom Report from Susie Tatone

The floor tile pattern has been selected (White Hex Pattern). We have purchased the flooring, bead-board, and a brand new toilet which is not only ADA height, but has a dual flush feature for saving water! Installation is pending.

Elevator Update from John Lichtenheld

Contractor Arrow Lift will continue work this coming week with the state inspection scheduled on Thursday, April 16. Elevator opening and door trim work continues with our volunteers (John Lichtenheld, Wood Weller, Steve Chiquoine). Hopefully, we'll be back in service on or after Thursday. We will make one more payment to satisfy the \$64,909.00 contract. Donations for this crucial project are still welcome on our website home page.

Gutter Cleaning from John Lichtenheld

Our gutters were cleaned by Crystal Clear Pressure & Window Washing. The job will be paid from the Capital Projects Fund in the endowment.

How to join our Zoom Sunday Programs.

1. Go to the Sunday Programs tab of our website:

<http://www.freecongregation.org/sunday-programs.aspx>

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

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