



From the Administrator,

Welcome to the newsletter for the Fifteenth of February. You will find contributions from **Dave Siegfried, Lynne Roberts, 3rd Sunday Committee, UU Women's Connection, Stewardship Committee, Grounds Committee, Christine Meiners, 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
Feb 22	U.U. Program	Ralph Tyksinski	What can Albert Schweitzer Teach Us Today?
Mar 1	Spiritual Roundtable	All attending	The Differences Between Men & Women
Mar 8	U.U. Program	Robin Proud	Mercy Otis Warren: Muse of the Revolution

We invite you to attend our in-person Sunday programs in 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 **March 8 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@outlook.com) 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** as usual on the fourth **Monday, February 24, at 6:30 p.m.** The topic will be: **Natural Rights**. 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.

3rd Sunday/Holiday Programming Committee

The Third Sunday Committee has two member openings. Love our presenters and the interesting, thought-provoking programs they bring to Park Hall? Be part of the planning! Contact Kathi Kemp, Eleanor Chiquoine or Nick Schweitzer for details.

Speakers Wanted Do you know of a group or an individual who could speak at our 3rd Sunday Free Thought Forums? Please send your suggestions, via the Contact Form, attention: 3rd Sunday Committee, on our website.

March Grounds Work Days

The grounds subcommittee will be sponsoring 3 work days in March. They will be on **Fridays (March 6, 13, 20)** from **10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** Our kitchen crew ("the Kitchees") will be serving a free hot lunch for volunteers. To set goals for this work; please join the discussion by sending email: "I am in on the Grounds Work Days" to Gilbert Williams at earthdogghw@gmail.com. For starters, we will clear the fallen leaves and improve the front of the Hall appearance. We also need to clear some fallen wood from the back 40. Participants are asked to bring their favorite rake, leaf blower, pitch fork, wheelbarrow or chain saw. A riding lawn mower would be a big help. Subject to proper weather.

Please RSVP to let Gilbert know which days you will be attending, so that the Kitchees can plan for lunch. earthdogghw@gmail.com.

Facility Coordinators Update by Christine Meiners

Mindfulness Meditation with Diane Matzke - bi-weekly mindfulness practice sessions from 6:30-7:30pm. Please join us for these free sessions in March on the 11th and 25th.

Sauk Prairie Theatre Guild - Park Hall is busy with **rehearsals for the spring production** of the Sauk Prairie Theatre Guild. **A Night of Comedies** will take place Friday, April 10th and Saturday, April 11th at 7pm and Sunday, April 12th at 2pm. <https://sites.google.com/sptheatreguild.org/webpage/home>

Wormfarm Institute: A Decomposition – Friday, October 9th – Sunday, October 11th: The Free Congregation of Sauk County is a proud co-sponsor of the Wormfarm Institute's experimental symposium on decomposition and renewal. This gathering will feature soil scientists, artists, musicians, and death workers from across the country. The Wormfarm Institute is currently reviewing session proposals so keep checking their website or our newsletters for updates! <https://www.wormfarminstitute.org/programs/current/decomp26>.

Keynote Speaker – Omar DeKok-Mercado, Director of Wilding, Mad Agriculture, Boulder ColoradoOmar's (he/him) work has focused on supporting regenerative farmers in incorporating perennials into their farming systems. His philosophy embraces the wisdom of traditional practices and the power of creative imagination. Blending his technical expertise in soil science and agro-ecology with his artistic sensibilities he makes complex concepts accessible and inspiring. This unique blend has had a transformative impact on the agricultural landscapes he's worked with, enhancing both productivity and farmer livelihoods.

UU Women's Connection Winter Retreat

The Unitarian Universalist Women's Connection will host its 2026 Winter Retreat from **February 27 to March 1** at the Toddhall Retreat Center near Columbia, Illinois, just south of St. Louis. [Winter 2026 Retreat Info](#) Registration is open, with limited capacity of 27 participants.

Pledge Drive, March 22, Don't Miss It!

Mark your calendars. Our **2026/2027 Pledge Drive** will kick off on **March 22**. Pledging at the Drive is critical to our budget planning for the year starting July 1, 2026. We'll have a budget presentation at noon, followed by a potluck lunch. Members should watch email for supporting information and pledge forms around March 15. We hope to record as many member pledges as possible at the dinner. Contact Joe Frost, Glen Johnson, or Fritz Parks for more information.

Food Pantry, April 8 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Volunteers are needed for the Congregation's next assigned pantry staffing. Please RSVP to Ellen, eap313@gmail.com. The Food Pantry distribution will now be inside. [Click for pantry information](#)

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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I welcome your submissions to this newsletter. Send your events, announcements, photos, and recipes to me. [Newsletter Submissions](#) use the Contact Us form at bottom.