



From the Administrator,

Welcome to the newsletter for the First of June. You will find contributions from **Susie Tatone, Hooverson Funeral Home, Cemetery Committee, Glen Johnson, Diane Matzke, Indivisible Sauk Prairie, Robin Proud, John Lichtenheld, Nick Schweitzer, and Glen Johnson**. 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
June 8	Annual Meeting	Members invited	Business meeting, budget and elections
June 15	Slotty Road Picnic	All invited	Potluck picnic with theatrical readings
June 22	U.U. Program	David Butler	Family Systems

We invite you to attend our in-person Sunday programs at our recently restored Park Hall. We have masks available. Childcare is provided each Sunday.

Our Sunday programs are also available live on Zoom.

The Congregation of the Free Congregation will meet for its annual **Business Meeting on June 8, at Park Hall at 10:10 a.m.** The agenda will include reports from officers, committees and employees. The following official business will require the approval of members: the budgets for the July-June year, the updated bylaws, and the elections for the board. Members should watch for an email in preparation for the meeting. The meeting will also be on **Zoom**.

Member Zoom Check In/Support Meeting

On **Monday, June 9**, we will have a Zoom meeting open for members to check in. Use this event to build community among members, socialize and support each other. Join the meeting from the **Support** tab on our website: <https://freecongregation.org/support.aspx>.

Celebration of the Life of Rick Schroeder

Friend of the congregation and attendee at our Spiritual Roundtable Discussions, Rick Schroeder passed away May 1. You may find his obituary at [Richard Schroeder/Hooverson Funeral Home](#). Visitation (11:00 a.m.) and Memorial Service (12:00 p.m.) will be held **Saturday, June 14** at our Hall. A reception after the service will be at Vintage Brewing.

Congregation Picnic at Slotty Road

Our picnic will be **Sunday, June 15, at 10:10 a.m.** at our **Slotty Road Cemetery**. We'll provide brats and hot dogs; our members will bring picnic potluck dishes as usual. Please bring a lawn chair, spoon/forks, and beverage of your choice. Otherwise, come as you are; bring friends and family. Entertainment will be members's shared readings from literature.

A Note from Treasurer Glen Johnson:

Our newest investment advisor partner, **Infinite Giving**, provides our donors with a wide range of tax efficient contribution options including credit, debit, ACH, stocks, DAF grants, and even endowment gifts. Especially now, when we're fundraising for a new elevator, Portraits In The Hall, and Celebration Of The Season, we encourage you to consider these alternative methods of tax-efficient giving:

Stocks - save up to 30% on capital gains taxes by gifting stocks vs. a regular cash donation

Donor Advised Funds (DAFs) - DAFs can easily be gifted from your existing account at another financial institution

Endowments - Gift a one-time donation that can provide a percentage of returns every year for decades

Please support us by giving here [Stock, DAF, Endowment Giving](#) and thanks so much for your generous support!! If you have any questions, please contact Glen at 608-963-9773 or gjohnson@rucls.net . P.S. Here's a quick video tutorial showing [how to donate stock gifts](#)

Picnic Volunteers Needed - Potluck Assignments

We'll need several people to setup at Slotty Road, starting at 9:30 a.m. Take down and cleanup will also require volunteers. Please contact Fritz to sign up. Member potluck dish suggestions are according to last name: S-Z salads or chips; L-R desserts; A-K entrees (brats/hot dogs will be provided).

Cemetery Committee will meet at the Picnic

A brief committee meeting will be held to discuss with Bob Ochsner where to place the bench donated by the Ochsner Foundation.

Mindfulness Meditation this Summer

During the Summer Months we will meet for Mindfulness Meditation on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month. Summer tends to naturally lead people outside to spontaneously meditate. We will meet **June 11th** and **25th** from **6:30-7:30**.

On **June 11th** we will focus on what it is to 1.) go on a retreat and 2.) to retreat. Slightly different concepts with the same intentional outcome, self-awareness and introspection.

On **June 25th** we will have our monthly RAIN practice. RAIN stands for: Recognize, Allow, Investigate and Nurture. We create a safe space for people to allow and process feelings and emotions. Unprocessed feelings can be held in our bodies and keep us stuck in a situation. The RAIN practice gives us the self-compassion to meet our needs. Contact Diane Matzke with questions: mindfulheartspace@gmail.com.



This Pride Walk is sponsored by Indivisible Sauk Prairie. Kicking off Pride Month! Bring any and all flags, banners, and gear to show your support for the LGBTQ community. Open to everyone! Invite friends and family who would be interested.

Interweave Pride Picnic - Robin Proud

On **Saturday, June 28 at 2pm**, **Interweave** (LGBTQ folks and allies) is hosting a **Pride Picnic** in the backyard of the **Prairie U.U. Annex, 2006 Whenona Dr., in Madison**. The Annex is the house next door, whose yard adjoins the meeting house. Please help spread the word to anyone you know who might be interested. Interweave is a small group so it's hoped that many of you will join, even if you haven't been involved with Interweave before. We need all the allies we can get! And if you have Pride gear, please bring or wear it!

Elevator Update - John Lichtenheld

The board has made a recommendation to replace our existing elevator. Approval will be before the congregation at its annual meeting in June. This aged elevator has become unreliable for the past year and parts are difficult to find (many parts can only be made by licensed vendors). The nearest licensed vendor is in northeastern Illinois and their response and service has been dismal to say the least. So far we have spent over \$3,500 this year to keep it running.

We have solicited bids from three vendors. After review and discussions with the vendors, it has been recommended that the congregation approve a contract with Air Lift elevators to complete the work for \$65,000. They were selected based on three criteria (1) reliable maintenance and repair (2) minimal alterations to our existing elevator enclosure (3) cost.

More details will be available at the annual meeting on June 8, 2025.

Enlisting ‘Revel’ers

Planning has begun for our second multi-cultural event, **Celebration of the Season**, to be held on December 20th this year in and around Park Hall. We’ve already started lining up presenters, performers, and food vendors. All members and friends of the Free Congregation are invited to participate and help plan the event.

We want to have a half hour long sing-along before the polka band starts playing to end the evening. We would like a ‘revels’ sort of event, songs in the spirit of John Langstaff’s Solstice songbook. We invite members to lead or perform the music before the polka band starts playing for the evening. If you have an interest in making this happen, please contact me at jnschweitzer@gmail.com. Nick Schweitzer.

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

Other Useful Links:

[Unsubscribe to Newsletter List](#) use the form below newsletter links.

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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.