

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                                 |
|---------|----------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| Sept 21 | Free Thought Forum   | Brandon Bloch   | Protestant Resistance in WWII Germany |
| Sept 28 | U.U. Program         | Pema Antoniotti | pending                               |
| Oct 5   | Spiritual Roundtable | All attending   | Emotional Unavailability              |



We are proud to support our LGBTQ members and friends.

The Free Congregation of Sauk County  
A Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

September 14, 2025

Growing Spiritually Together  
Strengthening Faith Through Friendship



Pema Antoniotti  
Associate Speaker of the FCSC

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[www. free congregation.org](http://www.freecongregation.org)

September 14, 2025

## Growing Spiritually Together

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

Welcome Pema Antoniotti

Story for All Ages: **I Am Human**, Susan Verde Pema

Announcements Fritz Parks

Lighting of the Candle - Congregational Reading All

As we light this flame, may it shine with friendship's warmth.

May it remind us that many paths can meet in peace.

May it kindle respect for each tradition's light.

May we share our joys and concerns with open hearts.

And may it guide us to walk together in love.

Prelude: **You've Got A Friend**, Carol King Marita

Hymn: **#148 Let Freedom Span Both East and West** Marita

Joys and Concerns Pema

Offering: **One Voice**, The Wailin' Jennys Marita

This is the sound of one voice, one spirit, one voice, the sound of one who makes a choice. **This is the sound of one voice.** (twice)

This is the sound of voices two, the sound of me singing with you,

Helping each other to make it thorough;

**This is the sound of voices two.** (twice)

This is the sound of voices three, singing together in harmony,

Surrounding to the mystery. **This is the sound of voices three.** (twice)

This is the sound of all of us; Singing with love and the will to trust.

Leave the rest behind, it will turn to dust.

**This is the sound of all of us.** (twice)

This is the sound of one voice, One people, one voice

A song for every one of us. **This is the sound of one voice.**

## Strengthening Faith Through Friendship

Meditation on Gratitude Pema

Reflection: **Growing Spiritually Together** Pema

Dialogue Congregation

Hymn: **#1008 When Our Heart Is in a Holy Place** Marita

Closing Words Pema

Postlude: **Lean on Me**, Bill Withers Marita

### Announcements and Events

The Board will meet Sunday, September 14, at 11:30 a.m., in the Hall. Send agenda requests to the board.

Mindfulness Teaching Session, Wednesdays, September 24, in Park Hall, 6:30 p.m. Led by Diane Matzke. Open to all. No charge.

Concert on September 20th with Shawndell Marks' 2 bands, \$15 per person - tickets available at the door or prepaid on our website.

Please sign up for coffee set up/clean up. Thank you.

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](http://www.freecongregation.org).