

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 |
|--------|----------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|
| Dec 21 | Seasonal Program | All attending | Songs, Poems, Coffee, Fellowship |
| Dec 28 | U.U. Program | Robin Proud | Love & Anarchy: Emma Goldman |
| Jan 4 | Spiritual Roundtable | All attending | Triggers & Trauma |



We are proud to support our LGBTQ members and friends.

The Free Congregation of Sauk County
A Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

December 14, 2025

The Constitution of Knowledge

A DEFENSE
OF TRUTH

Jonathan Rauch

Rob Brink
Associate Speaker of the FCSC

307 Polk Street
Sauk City, WI 53583
608-643-3131

www.freecongregation.org

December 14, 2025

The Constitution of Knowledge

Gathering: **Prelude in C major**, J.S. Bach Kimberly Fisher

Welcome Rob Brink

Story for All Ages: **Two Truths and a Lie** Rob

Announcements Fritz Parks

Lighting of the Candle Rob

Prelude: **Gavotte from French Suite No. 5**, J.S. Bach Kimberly

Opening Hymn: **#187 - It Sounds Along the Ages** Kimberly

Joys and Concerns Rob

Offering: **Carol of the Bells**, M. Leontovich Kimberly

A Defense of Truth

Reading from **The Constitution of Knowledge**, Jonathan Rauch Rob

Reflection: **The Constitution of Knowledge** Rob

Dialogue Congregation

Closing Hymn: **#297 - The Star of Truth** Kimberly

Closing Words Rob

Postlude: **Pastorale**, Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach Kimberly

Announcements and Events

The Board will meet today at 11:30 in Park Hall and on Zoom.

Mindful Meditation, Wednesday, December 10, 6:30 p.m., in the Ferver Room. All welcome.

Please sign up for coffee setup/cleanup for the 2nd and 4th Sunday programs.

Don't miss our **Celebration of the Season**, 2nd annual event, **Saturday, December 20**. Horse-drawn wagon rides start at 10 a.m. No admission for this all day event.

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.