

Newsletter

November 2021



Daylight saving time (DST) ends at 2 a.m. local time on Sunday, Nov. 7. At that time, you'll need to set your clocks back (remember "fall back") one hour.



What does **HOLDING HISTORY** mean? Click [HERE](#) to find out.

Looking Back, Looking Forward

This time of transition from one minister to the next is a time for you as a congregation to reflect on your past and prepare for your future. This is the "bonus year" in which you continue this project as you search for a minister who will be a good fit to be your next settled minister. Who are you and who do you want to be as a congregation?

I hope you'll find information about the upcoming "Looking Back, Looking Forward" playshop in three different places in this newsletter! A playshop is even more fun than a workshop. You'll be asked to respond to provocative questions in increments of exactly six words, and to share your responses as you wish. Reflect on your experiences at DUUC and your hopes for the congregation's future. The focus of the event is on sharing the playshop experience rather than on gathering data. The more people participate, the more engaging this experience will be for all. Be there or be square! Sunday, November 14, 3:00-5:00 pm by Zoom at <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/97033289817>.

For now, your church has “left the building.” We all hope that very soon, it will again be possible to gather in person. Of course, as the Rev. Margaret Weis writes

The church is not a place; it is a people.... The church is not only a steeple above the treeline.... Rather, it is a people proclaiming to the world that we are here for the work of healing and of justice.

The church is not walls built stone upon stone, held together by mortar but rather person, linked with person, linked with person: all ages and genders and abilities—a community built on the foundation of reason, faith, and love.

The church is not just a set of doors open on Sunday morning, but the commitment day after day, and moment after moment, of our hearts creaking open the doors of welcome to the possibility of new experience and radical welcome. The church is not simply a building, a steeple, a pew.

The church is the gathering together of all the people, and experiences, and fear, and love, and hope in our resilient hearts; gathering, however we can....

Looking forward,

Connie

(Online Only)

In response to Coronavirus and with concern for the safety and health of our members and visitors, all Sunday services, Forums, and large meetings will be held online only.

**Click here to join our live stream
Service and Forum on Sundays!**



November 7, 2021 @ 10:30am

“On the Shoulders of Those Who Come Before”

On honoring the work that’s been passed to us and holding on to the responsibility of moving the work forward. An important part of holding history is the understanding that we are braced on the shoulders of those who came before us. Each person learns and grows from the people who came before, and we square our shoulders for those who follow. This is a service for all ages, led by Steve Cooper, Director of Religious Education, and Rev. Connie Grant.

November 14, 2021 @ 10:30am

“We Are DuPage Unitarian Universalist Church”

Members who have joined the congregation over the decades will share stories about what the church was like in the decade in which they joined. New members will be welcomed into the congregation! From 3:00 – 5:00 by zoom, all congregants will have an opportunity to share their experiences and hopes for the future in six-word increments. See below for more information.

“Looking Back, Looking Forward”

November 14, 3:00-5:00 pm by Zoom.

A congregational playshop (more fun than a workshop)!



Practice “heartstorming” (less cerebral than brainstorming) Reflect on your experiences at DUUC and your hopes for the congregation’s future, in increments of six words. The more people participate, the more engaging this experience will be for all. Be there or be square!

Led by Rev. Connie Grant with support from the Transition Team. Zoom link: <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/97033289817>

November 21, 2021 @ 10:30am

“Freedom, Reason, and Tolerance Revisited”

Historically, freedom, reason, and tolerance have characterized the Unitarian movement as “necessary conditions for the fullest development of religious thought and life.” Yet, these are imperfect virtues. How do we reframe freedom, reason, and tolerance for twenty-first century Unitarian Universalism?

November 28, 2021 @ 10:30am

“Words spoken before all others”

The “words spoken before all others” are words of thankfulness, in a prayer sometimes referred to as the Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Address. We’ll explore the spiritual practice of gratitude, even in difficult times.



*Front row (left to right): Diane Gelder, Katie Hay, Jenny Hobbs, Lyndi Sprietsma, Ann Arellano
Back row (left to right): Kelley Trombly-Freytag, Pat Lichtman, Karen Peck, Linda Zetterberg, Rev. Connie Grant*

Come Zoom with Your Board!

Join your Board of Trustees on Zoom the **SECOND Sunday of every month at Noon** for conversation and connection. We’d love to have you join us!

Every month on the **SECOND Sunday at Noon.**

<https://zoom.us/j/91029983070?pwd=ekNzVTICTUQ2ODk0MUFSRzF1NFppQT09>

Or dial +1 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 910 2998 3070

Passcode: 272229



Virtual Social Time

Each Sunday, 11:30-noon by Zoom

Bring your coffee and join us following the service for Social Time hosted by Rev. Connie Grant. You’ll be assigned to an automatically-generated “breakout room” for a half-hour of conversation with a small group of people. A discussion question related to the service will be provided. The Zoom link is: <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/bl99323877416>.



SCIENCE
SUNDAY

Sunday, November 7 @ Noon via [YouTube](#)

The 20th century is often considered the century of innovation of progress. Now that this amazing century is in the rear-view mirror, has innovation stopped? Is there anything good that has, so far, come from the work of scientists and engineers in this new century? During this Science Sunday, Scott Thompson will talk about the wonders of the 21st century.(so far!).

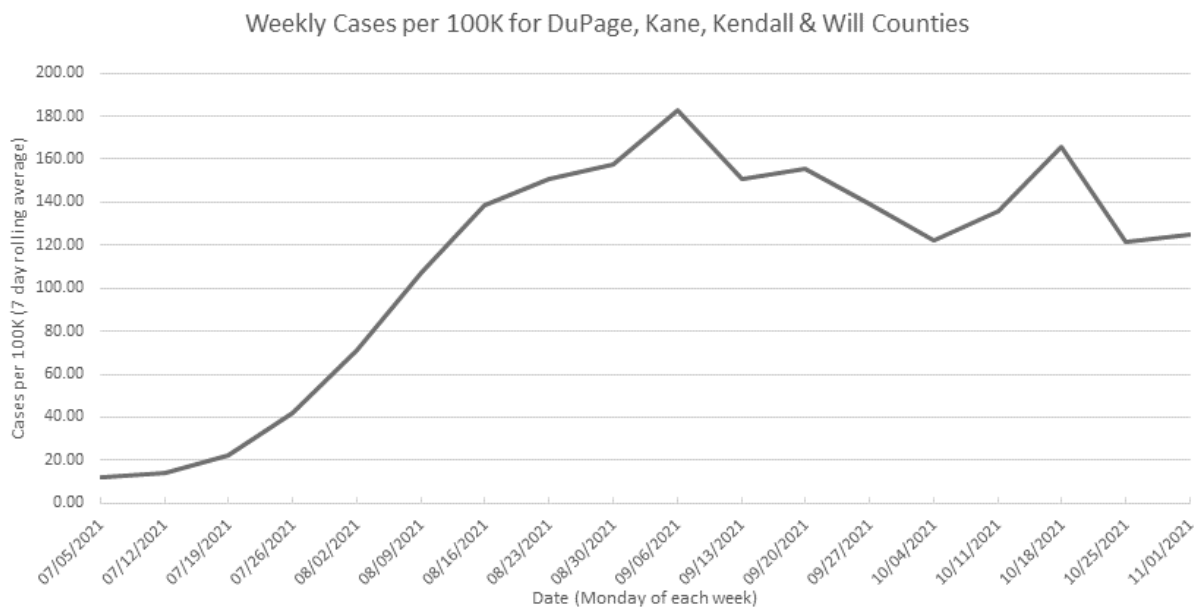
Sunday, November 21 @ Noon via [YouTube](#)

In ancient days, when people were first exploring and settling in the Americas, gigantic and often fearsome beasts roamed the land. Mike Winter will talk to us about mammoth mammoths, smiling smilodons and more amazing fauna. He'll also discuss ideas about why the megafauna of the pleistocene became extinct.



COVID Task Force Weekly Update

Over the last week our four counties have averaged 405 new confirmed cases per day. The seven day rolling average Covid cases per 100,000 population for Monday, November 1 is 124.66. This is a 2.6% increase from the previous week. The chart below shows weekly covid cases per 100K population for our four counties since the first week in July.



If you have any questions, please reach out to the COVID Task Force at CovidInfo@dupageuuchurch.org.

2021 ♥ Care Bears

GOODS *and* SERVICES AUCTION

Care Bears Auction 2021 is underway!

Bidding begins today, November 4, at 4:00 pm! All information and links to the Auction site can be found at dupageuuchurch.org/2021Auction. We know you *Care-A-Lot* about this beloved community and we are hoping for another virtual Auction success.

- With ticket purchased and payment information entered using the link in an email from the church with the Subject line **Welcome to Goods & Service Auction 2021 Online Bidding** ... begin bidding! Don't be *Bashful!* **Bidding runs through Sunday at Noon.**
- **Join the Auction team and Rev. Connie on Saturday 5:00 to 6:00 pm** for special music by Karen Campbell and Jim Wharton, followed by breakout sessions to chat with friends. **Zoom link:** <https://uuma.zoom.us/j/99739584840>.
- When all is said and done, you will be notified of your winning bids. If your winnings include tangible items, **please pick up your Auction winnings at the Church on Sunday, November 7, from 3:00 to 5:00 pm.** If you need to make alternate arrangements, contact the Auction team.

We *Wish* you winning bids and a calendar filled with fun in 2022.
Your Auction Team

Special Collection

Community Outreach/Special Collection Update

DUUC's September special collection raised \$1,105.13 for Youth Outlook. Thank you for giving.

The November special collection will be our annual support of **Holiday Meals on Wheels**. Seniors who live alone will often miss a meal just because it is too difficult to shop and prepare their own meals. Through Meals on Wheels a wide variety of ready-to-eat, single serving meals are prepared and delivered to homebound seniors. In addition to the meals, every senior receives a Well-Being Check and an Emergency Follow-Up, if needed. Beyond making sure our seniors are safe and cared for, these extra steps provide a much needed and welcomed human connection.

For more information on the Meals on Wheels program, visit the DuPage Senior Citizens Council at <https://www.dupageseniorcouncil.org/meals-on-wheels/>.

Please click [here](#) to make a donation. Thank you for your generous support.



GOVERNANCE



Policy-based Governance (PBG) Progress Report

The Board and Governance Committee continue to tackle items that will need to be in place for the June 2022 vote to formally adopt new Bylaws and Policies. As we act on new practices to clarify roles, establish accountability, and create efficiencies, you'll also notice some new terminology in our policy and communication. "Ends" and "Limitations" will help keep us on track.

Ends are a special type of goal, broader than specific annual goals. They can be established and retained for a period of time - several years, if we decide - and broadly define a shared vision that addresses a question or purpose. In this transitional period, Rev. Connie offered to get us started, using our Mission and Vision statements as a base for the question "What do we exist to do as a Church/Congregation?" The Board accepted these provisional goals:

DuPage Unitarian Universalist Church exists so that its members and friends

- *create an inclusive community.*
- *learn and grow together religiously and intellectually.*
- *experience spiritual growth.*
- *work toward fairness, love, and compassion in the larger community and the world.*

These, and future Ends, will provide a basis for reporting, assessment, and accountability against annual goals, as well as general introspection: "What progress have we made in working toward our Ends?" and "Are we living into the reason for our being?"

Limitations are guidelines set in policy that define the boundaries within which our Minister/Head of Staff can act as she or he works for the good of DuPage UU Church. Policy and procedure most often define a statement or steps that lead to a desired or expected result. An Executive Limitation policy, then, will describe the means and actions that would be unacceptable if used to achieve that desired result. In the coming months the Governance Committee will explore additions to our policies that provide this layer of balance.

Stay tuned each month for updates and opportunities. Mark on your calendar Rev. Connie's "Playshops" (3:00 – 5:00 pm on November 14, December 5, January 9, and in February/March) that not only are part of this interim year but will help set the stage for future annual conversations in our policy-based (aka: participation-based!) governance model. You are needed to help us do the work we love, better!

Governance questions can be directed to governance@dupageuuchurch.org.



The church office will be closed the week of November 22nd.

Regular hours will resume on Monday, November 29th.

The **deadline** for submissions for the November 18th & November 25th DUUCConnections is **Monday, November 15th @ 9am.**

The deadline for the December newsletter is **Monday, November 29th @ 9am.**

Please email all submissions to Sheri at office@dupageuuchurch.org.



DuPage UU Prairie Burn

Maintenance of our restored prairie requires periodic controlled burning to suppress invasive plants and remove plant litter. This is normally done in the late fall or early spring. A professional firm has been contracted to conduct the fire safely and appropriately. Many factors determine the specific timing of the burn, including the dryness of the

plants, the moisture/snow levels, as well as weather conditions. Therefore the date of the burn is yet to be determined, but it will be held this Fall (November-December) or the Spring of 2022 (February-April). The final decision for the date to burn will be made by the contractor 24 hours before the burn. As soon as we are notified, members will be sent an announcement that the burn will occur, with encouragement to stay away for health and safety reasons. We will look forward to the healthy re-growth of the prairie!
From your Facilities Team



Raise your voice for the rights, well-being, and inclusion of people with disabilities in our community by joining in a virtually held Celebration for the International Day of Persons with Disabilities between 3:00 pm-6:00 pm on **Thursday, December 2, 2021**. Highlights include a fireside chat with Judy Heumann, the disability rights activist recently featured in the Oscar nominated documentary *Crip Camp*. The link to register is below.

Keynote Speaker — Judy Heumann!

Everyone is welcome to join us for this free celebration!

Zoom Video Conferencing Platform

3:00 – 4:15 Fireside Chat with Judy Heumann

4:15 – 4:30 UN Enable Day Film Festival

4:30 – 5:00 Artists Recognition

5:00 – 6:00 Celebration of Talent

* All times are in Central Time Zone

Judy Heumann's full biography:

<https://workforcedevelopmentinc.org/maxability-events/judy-heumann>

Click [HERE](#) to register.



FROM SOCIAL JUSTICE

Nafia Khan of HOPE Fair Housing would like to reach out to folks at DUUC to share information about the HOPE Fair Housing Center. She is offering the following presentation on Zoom on November 16 at 11 AM.

HOPE Fair Housing Center - Education and Outreach Mission and Vision

Hope Fair Housing is the oldest and largest fair housing organization in the state of Illinois. We will be sharing vital information on the agency and its programs, the Fair Housing Act, History of Fair Housing in the United States, information on Disparate Impact and much more.

For more information on HOPE Fair Housing Center, visit our website at hopefair.org or call (630) 690-6500

About the Presenter

Nadia Khan is the Director of Outreach, Events & Fundraising for HOPE Fair Housing Center. Prior to joining HOPE, Nadia worked in the field of Developmental Disabilities for five years, in direct service and advocacy. She has worked in the nonprofit sector for the large chunk of career, with a stint in both state and local government. She is excited to use her passion for social justice in her new role at HOPE.

JOIN THE ZOOM LINK for this informative presentation

The time is November 16 at 11 AM.

The meeting ID: 829 7256 3342; Passcode: 088066

You can also dial 1-312-626-6799

Nafia's contact information includes:
Phone: 630-690-6500 x122. Fax: 630-690-6586
202 W. Willow Ave. Suite 203, Wheaton, IL. 60187
www.hopefair.org

Become a Literacy DuPage Tutor

Literacy DuPage works with faith-based organizations throughout DuPage County to reach adults wanting to improve their English language skills. Literacy DuPage is seeking tutors. They provide materials and techniques needed to help adults break through language barriers and experience a whole new world of communication and connection. Virtual new tutor training is being offered. To learn more and register for training, visit the website www.literacydupage.org or call 630-942-5210.



Sunday Flowers Needed. Celebrate a person or event by providing flowers for a Sunday service during the church year, this October through May. While services are held remotely, the primary way to provide flowers will be to request that Sunday Flowers order a \$35 standard arrangement for you from Phillip's Flowers. However, *if you are already scheduled to take part in the service that day*, you may choose to bring in your own arrangement from your garden or favorite flower shop. Your dedication will be printed in the email with the link to the on-line version of the Order of Service. The flowers are yours to take home after the service. If you are not participating in

the service, you will need to pick up your flowers either on Sunday 11:45 a.m.-1:00 p.m., or contact Sheri, office@dupageuuchurch.org or (630) 505-9408, to make arrangements for a contactless pick-up during office hours. Remember, masks are required to enter the church. Payment may be made by sending a check made out to DUUC for \$35 to the church office (write "flowers" on the memo line), through the DUUC Payment Portal (select "other" under donation, and write in "flowers"), or VANCO (select "flowers fund"). Contact Kristen Tang at flowers@dupageuuchurch.org or (630) 305-7771 for more information and/or to request a date. Thank you!

Please join us for our semi-monthly Elders Circle meetings! We meet using **Zoom** on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. On the second Wednesday, we just check in and chat; on the fourth Wednesday, we have a discussion topic.

All are welcome regardless of age, and non-church members are welcome too!

To be on the email notification list, please notify Bob Harris at oofyprosser@outlook.com. He will send you notifications and the Zoom link for each of the meetings.



Mindfulness Meditation Mondays 7:00pm - 8:45pm

This mindfulness meditation group is open to anyone who has interest in meditation from beginners to more advanced. Our time together consists of sitting meditation, walking meditation (when we meet in person), a short teaching and responsive group sharing.

For more information, go to our website:

www.presentmomentsangha.org, or contact Mary Kullman, at spiritmk7@gmail.com or Elaine Waite, at elaineawaite@gmail.com.

Please join the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87909200423?
pwd=Y0FUNEMrVHIWUEZsTmhoNHJjRWJQRQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87909200423?pwd=Y0FUNEMrVHIWUEZsTmhoNHJjRWJQRQT09)

Meeting ID: 879 0920 0423

Passcode: 401647

Or dial 1 312 626 6799 and use the appropriate Meeting ID and Passcode.

Church opening for groups of limited size

The church is open for limited size groups. All meetings must be scheduled and confirmed through calendar@dupageuuchurch.org. If multiple meetings are taking place during the same time frame, we will stagger the start and end times so there is less cross traffic. Impromptu meetings are not allowed inside the building. **Masks will be required for entry into the building.** A supply of disposable masks will be available at the front door for those who do not bring their own.

Four meeting spaces are available, each having a different capacity. The rooms available are Founders (14 people), Learning Center (28), Kreves Hall (20) and the rear of the Sanctuary (25). We will have disinfectant supplies and hand sanitizer available in each meeting room, restrooms, and the elevators.

The following Group Expectations and Guidelines will be posted in meeting spaces and sent to group leaders:

- For the safety of your group, other groups and church staff please enforce our safety measures within your groups.
- Please ask members of your group to refrain from attending if they show signs of illness (coughing, fever, sore throat).
- Arrive no sooner than five minutes early and leave no later than five minutes after scheduled ending time.
- No community food or drinks to share.
- Wear facemask while traveling through building.
- If seated and socially distanced facemask may be removed if all parties are agreeable.
- Consider disinfecting your chair upon arrival. Use disinfectant wipe and allow a few minutes to air dry.
- If using elevator, wipe buttons with disinfect wipe after selection
- If using restroom, disinfect touched surfaces after (and before) use
- No congregating on sidewalk or public spaces after or before meeting
- Individual impromptu meetings can take place on benches in backyard.

We do encourage individuals or families to visit the church property and enjoy our prairie, gardens and labyrinth at any time (no reservation required).

If small groups would like to meet in the backyard for a social gathering or meeting, it should be scheduled through calendar@dupageuuchurch.org to avoid conflicts.

**Please consider making a donation to support
DuPage UU Church and all of its programs ~ thank you!**

Click here to

DONATE NOW

In the Wider Unitarian Universalist World

Conference Announcement Fall 2021
Saturday, November 13th 9:30am-12pm
By Mike Gilley (uuchicagoarea@gmail.com)



There's a strong desire among most of us to reconnect in-person with our church communities, especially if we haven't been able to thus far. Elders and families with young children, in particular, have been isolated throughout the pandemic.

We've experienced loss of family members, friends, community—and loss of whatever each of us considered our old normal. For many among us, we are filled with emotions and grieving due to the ongoing pandemic and the fleeting glimpses of what a new normal might look like.



Keynote Presenter:
Elizabeth Harding, Affiliated Community Minister at Second Unitarian Church of Chicago

Elizabeth will offer a framework for understanding the first year of grief and some reflections on collective grief during this pandemic time. The presentation will highlight coping strategies, including ritual.

The many challenges of gathering...

As a society, we've often yielded to the choices of the loudest voices. However, our UU principles compel us to also listen to and consider the quieter voices and even those without a voice.

Congregations that have resumed in-person gatherings have those among them that are concerned about serious health risks. They are more likely to be limited in their participation due to lack of options, means, or "Zoom fatigue".

Congregations that have not resumed in-person gatherings have congregants among them that are pushing to resume gathering in-person for church worship and social activities—straining some relationships and putting pressure on church leaders and staff.

Complicating plans is the very real diversity of opinion among UUs about their personal safety and the risk factors associated with: getting Covid-19 vaccinations, being around unvaccinated people or people with unknown vaccination status, and masking (and unmasking) protocols.

The pandemic, and our response to it, continues to challenge us with new problems while also providing us with opportunities to develop creative solutions and practice being in “right relationship” with each other.

Let us together explore how we can use this opportunity to strengthen our congregational communities while working through the challenges associated with gathering and building our UU communities during the ongoing pandemic.

Our panel (below) will discuss the challenges faced in gathering our UU communities, creative solutions we’ve found, and opportunities discovered along the way. Join the conference to learn and share!



Elizabeth Harding
Affiliated Community
Minister
Second Unitarian



Dr. Mary Lamb Shelden
Director of Lifespan
Religious Exploration
Countryside Church UU



Suzanne Williams
Communications
Consultant
Member of Unitarian
Church of Hinsdale



Leah Mikkelson
Board President
Tree of Life Congregation



Shelby Daniel-Wayman
Epidemiologist
Member of Unitarian
Church of Hinsdale

The conference will incorporate 2 elements leading to action and collaboration:

1) The **Interactive panel discussion and Q&A**
2) **Networking session** with Chicago area UUs to build relationships and encourage collaboration because we can get more done working together across Chicago area UU congregations. The following AFFINITY GROUPS will meet up at the conference to share, plan, and collaborate:

- Board & Leadership Development
- Buildings & Grounds
- Membership & Welcoming
- Religious Education & Adult Faith Development
- Social & Environmental Justice
- Social Media & Advertising
- Stewardship & Fundraising
- Technical Team
- Young Adult Groups

CONFERENCE FLYER: Click [HERE](#)

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION LINK: <https://uuchicagoarea.org/conference>

COMPASS: Navigating the Paths to Liberation Together



When asked, "What wisdom might we offer to one another in this challenging moment?" Let us boldly respond, "Interdependence will guide us onward." And it is truly in one another that we find our compass in navigating the paths towards liberation.

All are welcome to gather in community for *Compass: Navigating the Paths to Liberation Together* on December 11-12, 2021, as we discern our way forward.

The virtual event series will include invigorating worship, special musical guests, thought-provoking conversations, breakout caucus gatherings, a special presentation from the Article II Study Commission, and much more.

Registration is now open. Learn more about Compass here: <https://www.uua.org/leadership/events/compass>

Update on MidWest Leadership School



After more than 35 years of training leaders in an in-person week-long summer program, sadly it is now time to bid adieu to MidWest Leadership School.

Begun as a way to train leaders, the collaboration of then Central MidWest, Heartland (then Michigan and Ohio Valley), and Prairie Star Districts, the in-person school has produced more than 1000 graduates. Many were leaders in their congregations; some have entered professional ministry sparked in part by their experience at the school. While the curriculum was leadership, they also learned to trust themselves, work collaboratively, and connect beyond the walls of their congregation. Many "students" became "teachers" as co-creators of MWLS as lay staff. MWLS provided a deep sense of community. With the onset of the pandemic in 2020, we stopped in-person MWLS and YMWLS for safety reasons. We now realize that it would be difficult to resurrect the program as many of the necessary volunteers and co-leaders have shifted their focus, and we've also learned that we can do successful virtual leader education. While it does not create the same kind of intense and intimate learning experience as a week away at MWLS, our offerings do allow more people to attend without the barriers of being away from home for a week, and spending a sizeable amount of money to attend. Our Extended Leadership Experience in 2020-21 provided education to more than 3 times the number of a usual year, and at about 10% of the cost per person.

Stay tuned to our [MidAmerica website](#) and our newsletter for more information about other leadership experiences.

DuPage UU Church
630-505-9408
Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 8am-4pm
office@dupageuuchurch.org
<https://dupageuuchurch.org/>

See what's happening on our social sites:

