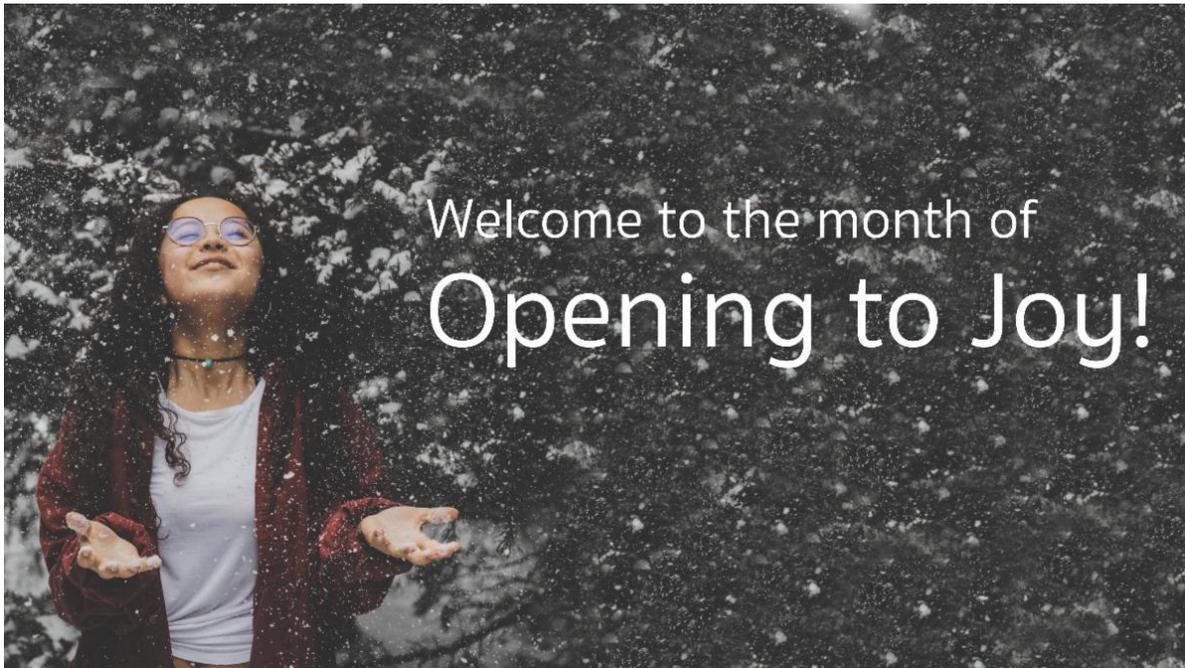


Newsletter

DECEMBER



What does Opening to Joy mean? Click [HERE](#) to find out.

What do you celebrate?

In recent years, my family has celebrated “Thanksmas” as our winter holiday. This holiday is a moveable feast that usually occurs in November, December, or January. The most important factor in determining the date is that it is held whenever our three adult children and their spouses and children can all get together. This holiday involves great thanksgiving, and Santa brings presents. This year, we’re planning a week in Sedona in January.

One of our customs is to put in writing, on our Thanksgiving tablecloth, what we are thankful for, specifically. We started this family ritual over thirty years ago, and the writings (and scribbling of babies and tracings of puppy feet) on the tablecloth provide a record of who was there and of the big and little things that were going on in their lives. On the cloth there are writings of family members now departed and of friends now out-of-touch. When he was a junior in college my son Kevin wrote that he was thankful for language, sharing, and communication and for people who use those tools to heal. One year my son Ryan wrote “I am thankful that our extended family is here and that they make our family seem normal enough.” When she was four, my daughter Megan looked around and said “I am thankful for persons.” Then she pointed to each one at the table and said “I’m thankful for you, and you, and you, and you.”

I’m thankful for you, the members and friends of DuPage Unitarian Universalist Church. I hope that you are finding ways to celebrate whatever holidays are meaningful to you!

Connie
Rev. Connie Grant

December

Services

(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!



December 5, 2021 @ 10:30am

"Celebrating Chalica"

Steve Cooper, Director of Religious Education and Rev. Connie Grant

Chances are, you may have never heard of this up and coming UU Holiday. It first emerged in 2005, and has slowly been gaining popularity since. It is traditionally celebrated in the first week of December, with each night being represented by one of the UU 7 Principles. Today we will introduce Chalica to our church community.

This is a service for all ages.

December 12, 2021 @ 10:30am

"The Extraordinary in the Ordinary"

Albert Einstein suggested that there are only two ways to live your life: as if nothing is a miracle, or as if everything is. How do you want to live your life?

Rev. Connie Grant speaking.

December 19, 2021 @ 10:30am

"A Holiday Pageant"

Steve Cooper, Director of Religious Education and DUUC Youth

Music and holiday stories told and performed with help from children and youth in our religious education program.

This is a service for all ages.



December 21, 2021 @ 7:00pm

"Winter Solstice Celebration"

Join us online on **Tuesday, December 21, 2021 at 7pm** on our YouTube channel. Stay tuned for information on how to create special rituals at home to celebrate this night.

- If you would like to be a reader in the service and pre-record your part (a

- reading and recording schedule will be sent to you) OR
- You have fabulous Solstice recipes you would like to share in our Solstice Guide OR
- You have pictures from previous Solstice services that you could share OR
- you have a reading you would like to have considered for the service:

Please email Holly Harris at hollyahj@yahoo.com.

General Questions: contact Holly or Kelley Trombly-Freytag at kellytf@gmail.com



December 24, 2021 @ 7:00pm

“The Gifts of Christmas”

A traditional Unitarian Universalist Christmas Eve service, with stories, carols, music, and candle lighting. Please have a candle and source of flame at hand to share in symbolically passing and receiving the light. Rev. Connie Grant leading, joined by readers and musicians from the congregation.

December 26, 2021 @ 10:30am

"Fire Communion"

Kat Gelder and Kelley Trombly-Freytag

The New Year sits at the end of a season of festivity and the beginning of a season of barrenness. With the turning of the new year, we will consider how we can find joy in both bountiful and bleak moments. Join us in our annual Fire Communion service, where we will let go of that which keeps us from experiencing the fullness and mystery of life, and we will invite inspiration to keep us moving toward the light.

*You are invited to participate in the Fire Communion service from home; to do so you will need a piece of paper, a pencil, and a candle and a way to light it.



The Fire Communion service needs your help!

The Fire Communion service will be all-virtual this year. We need your help to make it as meaningful as possible. We are asking for: 1) names of people you have lost this past year, or whom you are mourning. We will read the names during the remembrance portion of the service. 2) Videos of you lighting (or passing the light of) your candle - in the service, you are doing this while visualizing your intentions for the new year. Please email Kelley Trombly-Freytag at kellytf@gmail.com with your loved one's name, or if you are willing to do the short video. The video has some aspects we would like you to know about first. ~ Thank you so much-Kelley Trombly-Freytag and Kat Gelder



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>



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, December 5 @ Noon via [YouTube](#)

Science of Leadership, Power, and Authority

We will start talking about how humans have evolved divergent leadership traits from even our closest biological relative-chimpanzees. How has leadership developed in chimps and how is it different in humans? Why? In further discussions we will explore who seeks to attain power in human society; if the act of attaining power causes corruption in those who obtain it; and if existing systems inevitably lead to corruption of those in authority. Finally, how do we attract incorruptible people to positions of power? We will continue this topic in 2022.

Sunday, December 19 @ Noon via [YouTube](#)

Misconceptions and Misunderstandings of the Selfish Gene

In 1976, famed biologist and science-communicator Richard Dawkins released his first book, entitled *The Selfish Gene*. In it, he builds on the work of prior scientists (as is almost always the case) to argue that the gene, rather than the individual or even a population of organisms, is the object most central to the machinations of evolution. However, this provocative title proved to be problematic, and led to some misunderstanding about Dawkins' central point. Also, subsequent to the book's publication, many discoveries about genetics, unknown in 1976, have shown that the presumed simple relationship between genes and proteins is not, by far, the full story of genetics.

During this Science Sunday, Scott Thompson will discuss the concept of the gene as the entity that is selected for and propagated through time via natural selection. He will also highlight problems and merits associated with the notion of so-called selfish genes.

December Deadlines

The office will be closed Friday, Dec. 17 - Friday Dec. 31.

Regular office hours will resume on Monday, January 3rd.

[Wednesday, December 8th @ 9am](#) is the deadline for the [JANUARY NEWSLETTER](#).



Monday, December 13th @ 9am is the deadline for submissions for the following weekly **DUUCConnections**:

- December 16th
- December 23rd

Tuesday, December 14th @ 9AM is the deadline for the following **Orders of Service**:

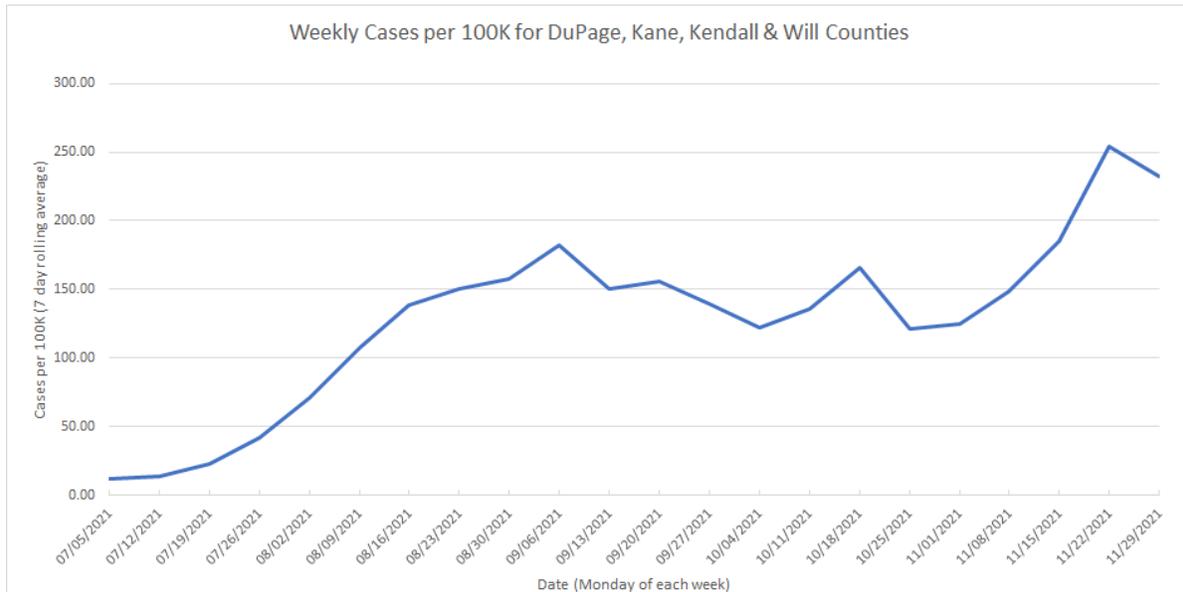
- Sunday, December 19th
- Tuesday, December 21st - Winter Solstice
- Friday, December 24th - Christmas Eve
- Sunday, December 26th
- Sunday, January 2nd

Please email submissions to Sheri at office@dupageuuchurch.org



COVID Task Force Weekly Update

During the past week our four counties have averaged 754 new confirmed cases per day, this is down from 827 the week before. The seven day rolling average Covid cases per 100,000 population for Monday, November 29 is 232.21. This is an 8% decrease 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.



December Meeting of the Board of Trustees

To avoid interference with the Winter Solstice, the December Board of Trustees Meeting has been rescheduled for December 28th at 6:30 pm. Please join us then. The Zoom link can be found on the members page of the church website.

Winter Carnival and Mitten Tree

Saturday, December 18

12 - 2pm in the church parking lot and backyard.

We will collect mittens, gloves and scarves on our Mitten Tree and have Winter Games and Activities.



Focus on Social Justice for January

Sunday, January 9, 3:00-5:00 pm by Zoom.

The topic of our January “playshop” will be “Focus on Social Justice.” This will be an opportunity to focus the congregation’s social justice and social service work based on community needs and the congregation’s passions and capacity to make a difference.

You work to make the world a better place as individuals and as a congregation. How can you focus your efforts to be more effective as well as more visible in the congregation and the larger community

Care Bears Auction 2021 recap: *Thanks-A-Lot!*

A lot of work, a fantastic outcome! Many thanks to all who purchased tickets, donated items or dollars ... and bid! The Auction outcome exceeded expectations, in this second year as a virtual event: **\$25,241** is the running total. As always, this largest fundraiser of the year and awesomely worthy cause provides assistance to our Church’s bottom line, allowing us to maintain our staffing, programs, and facilities.

Behind the scenes was a flurry of activity from August through November making it all happen. Your Auction team – **Jane Gano, Katie Hay, Lyndi Sprietsma, and Ann Arellano** – is very grateful to the following volunteers for helping manage the many moving pieces:

- Donation processing, photo uploading, last-minute donor requests: **Cindy Wunderlich**
- Callers, contacting all DuPage UU members by phone and email for donations and ticket purchase: **Kay Richards, Carolyn Atkins, Carolyn Drake, Diane Gelder, Sarah Balwin, Sue Ross, Judy Nigro, Bev Becker, Susan Camasta**
- Item drop-off sorting, tagging donations, printing labels: **Kristen Tang**
- Music for the Saturday evening Zoom Party: **Karen Campbell and Jim Wharton**
- Sorting items for winners post-Auction: **Linda Zetterberg, Joe Gano, Jane Gano, Katie Hay**
- Distribution of items for pick-up: **Joe Gano, Jane Gano, Judy Nigro, Mike Nigro**



Also, thank you to the coordinators of Basket donations by these Church committees, teams, and groups: **Present Moment Sangha Group, Congregational Life, Men’s Group, Spiritual Directions, Stewardship, Finance, Nominating, Denominational Affairs, Facilities Enhancement, Pastoral Ministry Associates, Social Action, Music, Governance, Board of Trustees.**

Thanks again, and stay tuned for Auction 2022 news in the new year!
Jane, Katie, Lyndi, and Ann

P.S. Would you like to be an Auction intern next year? It's a three-month gig. We'd love your help in 2022 and beyond.

Special Collection

From Community Outreach - Special Collections Update

The October collection benefitted West Suburban Community Pantry. We collected **\$835.63** to help them provide services. Thank you.

During December our Special Collection will benefit **DuPage PADS (Public Action to Deliver Shelter)**. . Founded in 1985, DuPage Pads is the largest provider of interim and permanent housing, coupled with support services in order to help individuals work toward becoming self-sufficient. These vital support services enable individuals to receive case management and life coaching, employment support such as job coaching, as well as engagement with employers—effectively stopping the cycle of homelessness.

To learn more visit <https://dupagepads.org/>

Please click [here](#) to make a donation. If donating by check, please make payable to DUUC, with DuPage PADS noted on the memo line. Thank you for giving generously!



Policy-based Governance (PBG) Progress Report

The Board and Governance Advisory Committee continue to tackle items that will need to be in place for the June 2022 vote to formally adopt new Bylaws and Policies.

- The Committee wrote, reviewed, and then sent a policy - on Policy! - to the Board, where it was approved at its November 2021 meeting. It has been incorporated into the work-in-progress Policy Manual.
- The Committee continued to refine the organizational structure to clarify and better represent Committee/Board and Program Team/Staff relationships within their respective areas of governance, ministry, and congregational accountability.
- To help identify the purpose of the work of committees in their relation to the Board, "advisory" will be added to some committee names: Finance, Stewardship, Personnel, and Governance are now identified as Advisory Committees to the Board.
- In December, the Committee will begin assigning the first round of committees and teams the task of updating their descriptions and procedures to map to our new structure and terminology. Those updates will be reviewed by the Governance Advisory Committee and passed along to the Board for approval.
- Stay tuned for a Zoom opportunity to learn more about our progress early in 2022!

Book Enthusiasts! Come join the DUUC Book Club!

What's the book? Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer

When: Second Friday of the month from 7:00-9:00 pm, starting Jan 14th

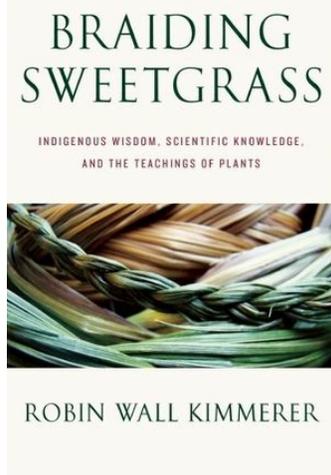
Where: DuPage UU Church Sanctuary OR online via Zoom

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82755660683?pwd=Rkc0UDVmdWFVVFZMM0JOeDJKQkR6QT09>

RSVP to Kelly Huggins at kelly.huggins@gmail.com

Please join us on the Second Friday of the month in the Sanctuary for the DUUC Book Club. In January, we will kick off the year by discussing [Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer](#). Masks must be worn while inside the building, we will be socially distanced and you can bring your own drink.

Consider purchasing from an [Indigenous Owned Bookstore](#), or support your local bookstore like [Anderson's](#) or [Harvey's Tales](#), or the [UUA inSpirit bookstore](#). A copy will also be available in the DUUC Library. If you are interested in borrowing a copy from the DUUC Library, please reach out to Jenny Hobbs at jenny.hobbs8@gmail.com to arrange pick up/delivery. You can also find this book at the Naperville Public Library, it's available as a physical book, audiobook and e-book. There are multiple copies available.



As a botanist, Robin Wall Kimmerer has been trained to ask questions of nature with the tools of science. As a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, she embraces the notion that plants and animals are our oldest teachers. In Braiding Sweetgrass, Kimmerer brings these two lenses of knowledge together to take us on “a journey that is every bit as mythic as it is scientific, as sacred as it is historical, as clever as it is wise” (Elizabeth Gilbert). Drawing on her life as an indigenous scientist, a mother, and a woman, Kimmerer shows how other living beings—asters and goldenrod, strawberries and squash, salamanders, algae, and sweetgrass—offer us gifts and lessons, even if we’ve forgotten how to hear their voices. In a rich braid of reflections that range from the creation of Turtle Island to the forces that threaten its flourishing today, she circles toward a central argument: that the awakening of a wider ecological consciousness requires the acknowledgment and celebration of our reciprocal relationship with the rest of the living world. For only when we can hear the languages of other beings will we be capable of understanding the generosity of the earth, and learn to give our own gifts in return.



DuPage UU Church’s Accessibility and Inclusion Ministry (AIM) has focused on increasing affordable and accessible housing for people with disabilities as our social justice project.

Over the past year, the City of Naperville has embarked on several proposed ordinances and projects to increase the amount of affordable housing.

In June, the City Council held a workshop regarding the development of an inclusionary zoning ordinance.

In August, the City Council approved a measure to develop surplus City-owned property into affordable senior housing and affordable housing for intellectual and developmentally disabled (IDD) individuals on property located near Route 59 and 103rd Street. The proposals for this development are due this month.

In November, the Council provided direction to City staff regarding a potential Affordable Housing Program.

AIM will continue to keep DuPage UU Church members and friends informed about developments regarding affordable and accessible housing for persons with disabilities.

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 elaineawait@gmail.com.

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

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87909200423?pwd=Y0FUNEMrVHIWUEZsTmhoNHJjRWJRQT09>

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).

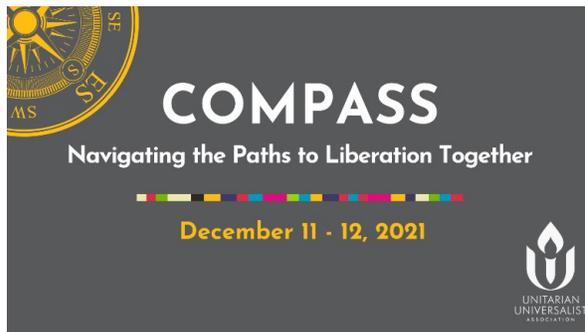
If small groups would like to meet in the backyard for a social gathering or meeting, it should be scheduled through calendar@dupageuuchurch.org to avoid conflicts.

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



In the Wider Unitarian Universalist World

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>

From Denominational Affairs



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
MULTIPLATFORM / PORTLAND • 2022

UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2022

In 2022, GA will be available for BOTH in-person and virtual attendance. It is scheduled from June 22 through June 26. Location: Portland, Oregon.

Your Denominational Affairs Committee encourages members of DuPage UU Church to attend either in-person or virtually. GA is always a rich menu of worship services, lectures, workshops and fun.

As in every year, we wait with great positive anticipation to learn who the Ware Lecturer will be. Stay tuned for updates on GA as well as information that may be pertinent to Committees and/or Teams you serve on at DuPage UU Church.

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:

