

# Newsletter

October 2021

October's Monthly Theme:

## Cultivating Relationship!



### Each Other's Human Beings

My family's home was destroyed by fire on Sunday morning, April 3, 1994, which happened to be Easter. Shortly after the sun came up, I called the minister of the Unitarian Universalist church where I was a member, knowing that his routine was to get up very early Sunday morning to finish his sermon. I said "I don't know yet what we're going to need, but I know we're going to need help."

My husband John was on a month-long business trip in Japan, and I didn't have a way to contact him directly. So the second call I made was to my friend Glenn, who speaks Japanese, to ask him to help track down John.

After the service was over at the church, a church-friend located me and said "we want you to stay with us," and I accepted her offer. Later in the day the coordinator of the church's brand-new Caring Program called me to ask what we needed. Members of the congregation had signed up to provide help to others in need, offering a ride, a casserole, a chore that needed to be done, or an unspecified category called "other." The program was so new that it had not yet been activated. And I didn't yet know what I needed.

Everything in the house was covered in a thick black layer of soot, and our insurance company considered the house and its contents to be a total loss. One of the insurance company's requirements, in order to reimburse us for replacement costs, was that we produce a full inventory of the contents of the house. Not just how many pieces of furniture of what description, but also how many books, how many bars of soap, how many dolls and Lego sets, how many chocolate bunnies in the Easter baskets. In order to help us achieve this daunting task, the Caring

Committee of the church sent a team of congregants to help make lists of every single thing we owned. A dozen or so people showed up to help. There were people I knew and was friendly with, and people I didn't know at all.

One of the helpers that day was my friend Glenn, who had been brought up in Judaism, and who held his own skepticism -- about anything and everything -- with religious fervor. Making conversation as we paused from our labors, Glenn asked me "Why do agnostics go to church?" I looked around and gestured toward the people who were helping us that day, counting and listing soot-covered household items, and I said "This is why."

Compassion and connection. That's why. That's why agnostics and atheists and theists and neo-pagans and other varieties of Unitarian Universalists go to church. Because human beings need compassion and connection: Not just to find compassion and connection or to receive those things, but to do them and be them and make them.

We are called to be each other's human beings. To share our sorrows and our joys, to show up for each other in ways that honor others' humanness and our own.

In faith and hope,

Connie

Rev. Connie Grant

[minister@dupageuuchurch.org](mailto:minister@dupageuuchurch.org)

## **(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!**



**Sunday, October 3, 2021 @ 10:30am**

### **"Being True to You"**

Welcome to the month of Cultivating Relationships! Part of cultivating relationships is practicing the skill of being true to yourself. By honoring your true identity, you encourage other people to be true to themselves, and can have a relationship based on equality, not pretense. This is a service for all ages, led by Steve Cooper, Director of Religious Education, and Rev. Connie Grant. Vera Pelin, piano.

**Sunday, October 10, 2021 @ 10:30am**

### **"Belonging"**

Belonging is a fundamental human need. What is the role of "belonging" in our lives? What does it mean to belong to this religious community? Rev. Connie Grant speaking. Time to Gather by Steve Cooper. Vera Pelin, piano.

**Sunday, October 17, 2021 @ 10:30am**

**“What What We Do Does”**

The postmodern philosopher Michel Foucault observed that “People know what they do; they frequently know why they do what they do; but what they don’t know is what what they do does.” What does that mean? Rev. Connie Grant speaking. Special music by Karen Campbell, Jane Handy, and Vera Pelin.

**Sunday, October 24, 2021 @ 10:30am**

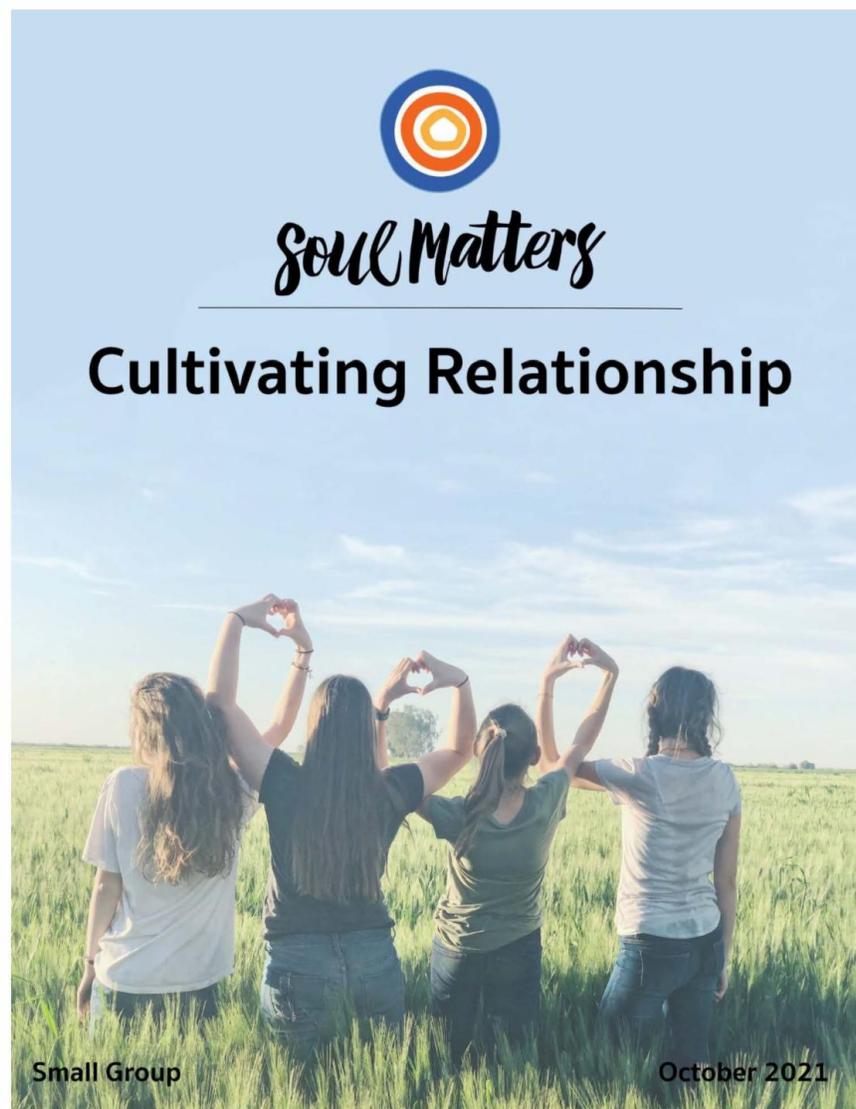
**“Inherent Worth and Dignity and the Problem of Evil”**

Does every person, without exception, have “inherent worth and dignity”? What about “evil”? Rev. Connie Grant speaking. Time to Gather by Steve Cooper. Vera Pelin, piano.

**Sunday, October 31, 2021 @ 10:30am**

**“Celebrating Life and Death”**

A reading I sometimes use in memorial services was written by the Roman philosopher Seneca: “In the presence of death, we must continue to sing the song of life.” Reflections for All Souls Day, the “commemoration of the faithful departed.” Rev. Connie Grant speaking. Time to Gather by Steve Cooper. Special music by Jim Wharton. Vera Pelin, piano.

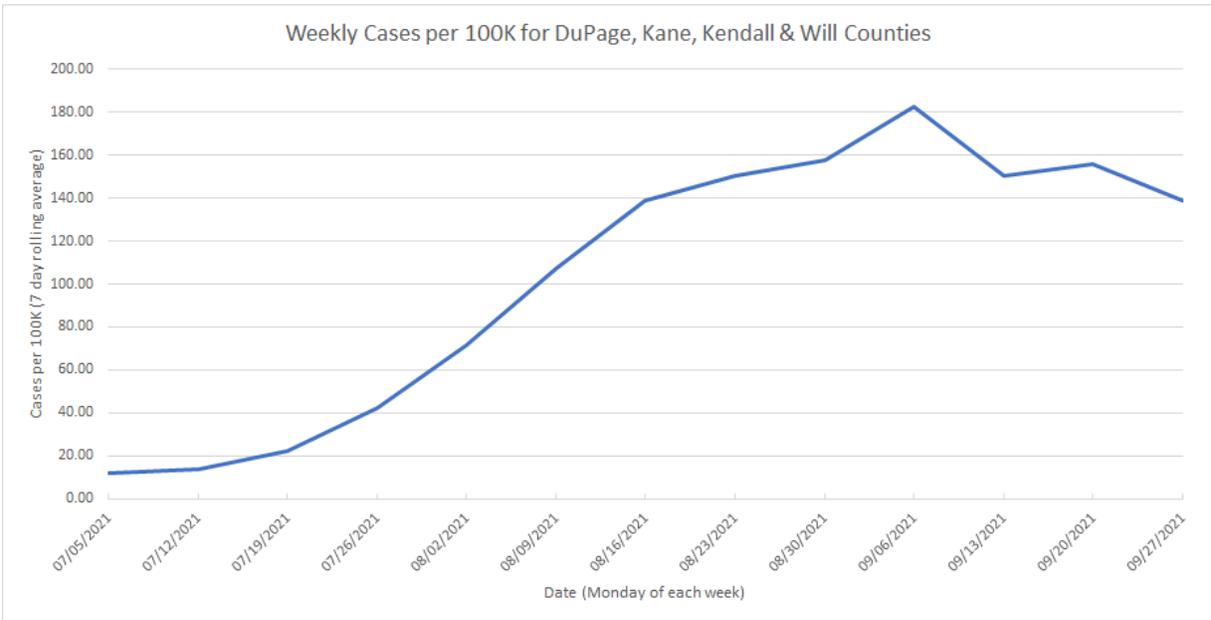


What does CULTIVATING RELATIONSHIP mean? Click [HERE](#) to find out.



### COVID Task Force Weekly Update

The four county Covid cases per 100,000 population for Monday, September 27 is 139.07. Our criteria for return to in-person church is below 50 per 100K and steadily decreasing. The chart below shows weekly covid cases per 100K 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](mailto:CovidInfo@dupageuuchurch.org).



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 **first Sunday of every month at Noon** for conversation and connection. We'd love to have you join us!

Every month on the First 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, October 3, 2021 @ Noon via [YouTube](#)**

***Beringia and America's First Humans***

Mike Winter will introduce you to the what scientists have discovered or proposed about the first humans' introduction into North America. What are some of the theories brought forth to explain how, why, and when humans first came to our continent and what evidence has been uncovered to support those thoughts? In further Science Sundays we will look at what they found when they arrived, and what humans did to the environment they encountered. I hope you can make it!!

**(NOTE: DATE CHANGE) Sunday, October 24, 2021 @ Noon via [YouTube](#)**

***The First Stars***

Scott Thompson will talk about the first stars. These stars were very different compared to the many billions of stars we can readily observe today. We'll begin with the story of their formation after the Big Bang has dispersed material into the universe, and then talk about the formation of these first stars. Then, the conversation will turn to the search for evidence of these stars up until today. Finally, Scott will cover some of the plans astronomers have for the future of this search.



The October special collection will benefit the **West Suburban Community Pantry**. The Pantry operates year-round with a goal that each eligible family in DuPage County, Bolingbrook, and Romeoville receives nutritionally balanced food, including meats, dairy, and fresh produce monthly. They are also registered as an emergency food pantry for Illinois. With the help of

volunteers and sponsors, the pantry's vision is to eradicate hunger in the DuPage County area. They are dedicated to providing food for the hungry, educating the donor community

about existing needs, and supporting advocacy efforts for the hungry. They also work hard to encourage volunteerism and the sharing of resources.

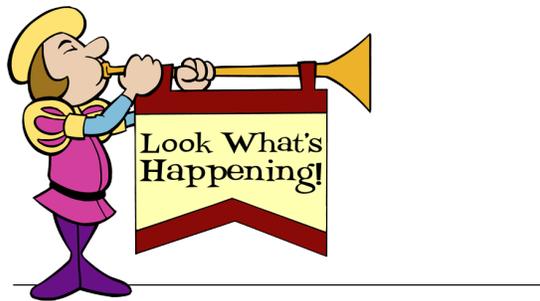
During fiscal year 2019 WSCP:

- Distributed 2 million pounds of food.
- Served 48,179 individuals, including 19,164 children and 6,815 seniors.
- 4,015 persons received perishable and non-perishable food bi-monthly.
- 3,097 families were served through our new Mobile Pantry program.
- 27 Seniors received Home Delivery each month.
- 607 backpacks filled with school supplies were distributed to children in our communities.
- WSCP partnered with 33 schools to provide healthy snacks to students.
- School breakfast was provided to nearly 1,300 students.

For more information visit their website at [wspantry.org](http://wspantry.org).

To make a donation, please click [here](#). Thank you for giving generously.

During August **\$1050.58** was collected in support of the **Animal Rescue Foundation. A.R.F.** is a no-kill, all volunteer, foster based organization dedicated to rescuing and rehoming homeless dogs and cats into loving forever homes, including animals that other rescue groups cannot help due to advanced age or exceptional medical needs of the animals. Thank you for your generosity.



### RUaUU2?

#### Connecting with DuPage UU Church

Are you considering becoming a member of the congregation and want to find out more about what that means?

How do people of diverse beliefs become part of one congregation? Enjoy a morning of exploration about your own spiritual and religious orientation and the workings of the church, led by Rev. Connie Grant and representatives of church programs.

**Saturday, October 30, 9:30am – 12:30pm by Zoom**

If you have questions or to register, email the Congregational Life Team at [conglife@dupageuuchurch.org](mailto:conglife@dupageuuchurch.org) by October 24.



#### Auction 2021: Caring, Sharing, Always There

This year we invite you to travel with us to *Care-A-Lo!* In the past year-plus of COVID challenges and in sharing our emotions and UU values as we've made it through so many months, we can draw on the good deeds embodied in the Care Bears children's characters' mission: **In the complex world of human**

**communication and expression, we adults, too, can help each other share our feelings and support one another.**

**What's in store for DuPage UU Virtual Auction: Year 2?** (Check for updates all month at [dupageuuchurch.org/2021Auction](http://dupageuuchurch.org/2021Auction))

**Bidding will begin on Thursday, November 4 and continue through noon on Sunday, November 7.** While the *Wish* for a hybrid live/silent Auction has been dashed by variants (cue the march through the *Forest of Feelings*), we are *Hopeful* that we can build on the success of last year!

**Auction donations**

Don't be *Bashful!* We wish you *Good Luck* as you *Do Your Best* to think of the fabulous goods, services, parties, and events that bidders will *Love-A-Lot*.

Enter your offerings on the [Auction 2021 website](#).

- **Goods and services:** Fill out the form, send an image that represents your item or service, check the dates for dropping off your non-perishable items.
- **Parties and Events:** Check the Parties and Events calendar on the Auction site to avoid too many fun options on the same date, fill out the form, send an image that represents the party or event, and submit!

## Tickets

You may [purchase your ticket online](#) until the final day of the auction, November 7, 2021.

- Price is \$5 per Virtual Auction Bidder (Household, Couple or Single). Each credit card used as payment method requires a separate admission.
- Scholarships are available and can be obtained by contacting the [Auction Committee](#).

Questions? Email [auction@dupageuuchurch.org](mailto:auction@dupageuuchurch.org) for assistance.



Your Ministerial Search Committee is back at work, still seeking a settled minister, since we did not find a good match last year.

Since the end of summer, we have been working with our coach from the UUA, and with Rev. Connie Grant and our church Board of Trustees, to update the Congregational Record. We have also met with congregants in several cottage meetings, with two more meetings scheduled this month."

We have held five cottage meetings to get input to the Congregational Record. Thank you so much to those who participated!

Once the Congregational Record is finished, we will be receiving applications in January, and begin the interviewing process.

For more current information, please read the Updates, which are found on our ministerial search page, accessible from the church's home page. The link for those pages is <https://dupageuuchurch.org/searchupdates>

As always, contact us with questions or concerns at [search@dupageuuchurch.org](mailto:search@dupageuuchurch.org).

Bob Harris and Kat Gelder for the Ministerial Search Committee



## Policy-based Governance (PBG): Progress report

- The Board has begun discussing the details of an annual calendar that outlines congregational conversation dates, policy review schedules, Committee and Staff reporting schedules, program and leadership evaluation dates, and more. These items will form a template for annual calendars going forward.
- A new Governance Committee has been appointed by the Board. Sherry Burlingame, Chris Cooper, Rob Miroballi, plus former Governance Task Force member Dean Reschke and Board members Jenny Hobbs and Ann Arellano will assist with policy review and monitoring of Board and Staff tasks and evaluations during the church year. They will write and refine a Committee description for themselves as well.
- The Committees that report to the Board and Congregation met via Zoom for a DuPage UU policy-based governance orientation on September 28. The session was recorded for those who could not attend.
- The Staff will meet in October for an orientation and review of their new roles as oversight for the Program Teams. Rev. Connie will meet with Steve Cooper (DRE, C.R.E.) and Sheri Regalado (Administrator) to plan additional orientation opportunities with the Program Teams and their members.
- Rev. Connie has scheduled four conversations - Playshops - with the Congregation this year, the first of which is on Sunday, November 14, 3:00 - 5:00 pm. "Looking Back, Looking Forward" by Zoom will be an opportunity to capture your experiences at DuPage UU and your hopes for the congregation's future, in increments of six words. Please make plans to attend; you have a voice! Going forward, our settled Minister and the Board will conduct annual conversations with the Congregation to help identify topics for the yearly Vision of Ministry and goals. PBG = policy-based, yes, but also partnership-based and participation-based governance. You are needed to help us do the work we love, better!

With orientations behind us and conversations begun, the Board will be busy tackling items that will need to be in place for the June 2022 vote to formally adopt new Bylaws and Policies. Next month: New terminology defined - Ends, Limitations.



### Church Cleanup

#### Cooperative Cleaning in Beloved Community

Saturday, October 23, 2021

9 am - Noon

#### Window Cleaners, Dusters, and Others Needed!

RAIN or SHINE. We will start with window cleaning, then move on to cleaning other parts of the church. Children are welcome to help in the company of a parent or caregiver. Masks are required for all volunteers who are expected to social distance.

We can always use a few long-handled dusters, kitchen stools, and a few extra short ladders (less than 6 feet tall). We provide ample supplies of cleaning solutions and tools. If you have questions

about something, just ask!

Please sign up at <https://forms.gle/8CoQk7xg1QvpAtMs5> or contact Jo Linsley or Roy Gelder to let us know you'll be here at [cleanup@dupageuuchurch.org](mailto:cleanup@dupageuuchurch.org).



#### Trunk or Treat

Sunday, October 31st 12 to 1:00pm

It's called Trunk-or-Treating, and the premise is simple: A bunch of parents band together in the church parking lot, deck out their trunks with Halloween decorations like they're starring in an episode of Pimp My Ride: Spooktacular Edition, and let their kids meander from car to car, collecting goodies

## Fall Retreat Update

Due to Covid precautions, it has been decided that the Fall Retreat will be held by Zoom rather than in person.

**Why:** The retreat is a terrific opportunity to have in-depth discussions and get to know each other better - it is especially welcome during this time of pandemic when we have not been able to get together. All are welcome! Please register ASAP as space is limited.



### When:

- Friday, October 15 from 7pm to approximately 9:30 pm, and
- Saturday, October 16 from 9:30am to approximately 3:30pm. There will be a lunch break from 12 to 1 pm.

**Topic:** Living in the Moment

**Book(s):** **Guardians of Being: Spiritual Teachings from our Dogs and Cats** by Eckhart Tolle and illustrated by the Mutts cartoonist, Patrick McDonnell plus readings from **The Power of Now** by Eckhart Tolle.

**Fee:** \$20 (The fee includes the book, **Guardians of Being**, which will be delivered to your home by a committee member.)

**Where:** In the comfort of your home by Zoom.

**Registration:** Please register ASAP as space is limited to 20 participants. Email Bev Becker ([tovah04@yahoo.com](mailto:tovah04@yahoo.com)) to register. Put **Fall Retreat** in the subject line of your email.

Send your check for \$20 to Sheri Regalado at DUUC, 1828 Old Naperville Rd., Naperville, IL 60563. Write **Fall Retreat** in the memo line of your check.

As with our past, in person, retreats, we plan to have ingathering, readings, questions for journaling, small group discussions, a small group activity and a concluding "Sunday" service.

Questions? Contact Caroline Bailey (630-851-5044) or Bev Becker (630-886-5622).



**OUR SMILE program** — Students, Mentors, Internships with Local Employers is sponsored by the generous members of our DuPage UU Church members.

Since we postponed our 2020 plan because of Covid, we were aware that 2021 would offer extra challenges. Our business partners were enthusiastic and eager to participate again; contacting and encouraging enough students to apply became more of a challenge, partly because they had not been attending school in person. Also several students had found full time jobs as businesses began hiring again..

We finally engaged 13 students in our many businesses.

One success story from this summer involved a young lady from a Naperville high school who is musically talented. She interned at Ellman's Music Store and the owner was so

impressed with her that he asked if she would like to continue working there during the school year after her daily classes and on Saturdays.

We also were able to recruit a student from Illinois Math and Science Academy who wanted to do some volunteer work in the summer; she did her internship with the City of Aurora in the Chief of Information Office assisting with technology issues.

Included also in our business group were the Aurora Chamber of Commerce, a creative communications consultant, two locations of a boutique called Wyckwood House, the Sci-Tech Museum and three food pantries.

This year instead of a large gathering for our end-of-program celebration, our team members went to each business location to deliver certificates to everyone and the honorarium checks to our student interns. We were greeted with many SMILES and positive reports; parting words from several of our business partners included "See you next year!"



**Thank you** so much to all those who have been providing flowers during our live-streamed services. Flowers are still needed for upcoming Sunday services on **10/17, 10/31, and 11/07**. (As well as many dates, January through May.) Please contact Kristen Tang at [flowers@dupageuuchurch.org](mailto:flowers@dupageuuchurch.org) if you are interested in providing flowers for any of these dates. 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](mailto: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](http://www.presentmomentsangha.org), or contact Mary Kullman, at [spiritmk7@gmail.com](mailto:spiritmk7@gmail.com) or Elaine Waite, at [elaineawaite@gmail.com](mailto:elaineawaite@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](mailto: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](mailto:calendar@dupageuuchurch.org) to avoid conflicts.

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



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

See what's happening on our social sites:



[Unsubscribe {recipient's email}](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by office@dupageuuchurch.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!