

Newsletter

January 2022



Welcome to
Living with Intention!

What does Living with Intention mean? Click [HERE](#) to find out.

Looking forward

We are halfway through our planned year together as congregation and interim minister.

In this “bonus” transitional year, some of the things we’re working on together:

- Coming to terms with history
- Discovering a new identity
- Allowing needed leadership to emerge
- Renewing denominational linkages
- Committing to new directions in ministry

In December, congregants met by Zoom to share thoughts and feelings about ministers who have departed. Ground rules included respect for each other’s truths. As we Unitarian Universalists know, often there is more than one truth in any given situation, not simply “the truth.” As in theological matters, respecting each other’s truths is essential to our ongoing relationships and conversations with each other. Participants indicated that the experience was healing, and that they learned things they didn’t know about others’ experiences.

This coming Sunday, January 9, at 3:00 by zoom (see below for details), we’ll consider how you can find ways to live out your values, even in these challenging times.

In February and March, we’ll work together to create a Covenant of Engagement, articulating your aspirations about how to engage with each other and with the congregation as a whole, to enhance congregational life.

An overarching goal for these times is to work within the limitations of the current situation,

and to find the possibilities within those limitations.

My primary tool for interim ministry is ministry; to be what one congregant termed your “current minister.” If I have a strategy, it is to give you time and space to regroup—literally and figuratively.

Ministers come and go, and the congregation goes on, with an essential ethos and personality. Of course, that ethos and personality are shaped in part by the ministers who have served you—by your positive or negative responses; you are shaped by the members who are and who have been part of you; and you are shaped your history and by the community and by the world you live in. But none of those are one-way streets. Just as you as a congregation are shaped by those people and contexts, you as a congregation shape those people and contexts, too.

Your next minister will be who they will be, and you will be who you are; and maybe you will all be your best selves, shaped and encouraged by each other.

In faith and hope,

Connie

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!**



January 2, 2022 @ 10:30am

"Having the Time of Our Lives"

The essayist Annie Dillard notes that “How we spend our days is, of course, how we spend our lives.” An exploration of how we perceive time and how we use it.
Rev. Connie Grant speaking.

January 9, 2022 @ 10:30am

“Wintering”

Can this season of cold and darkness be a time of spiritual renewal?
Rev. Connie Grant speaking.



Focus on Social Justice

Sunday, January 9, 3:00-5:00 pm via Zoom

<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/96182301466>

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

January 16, 2022 @ 10:30am

"Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – A Day On"

Observed each year on the third Monday in January as “a day on, not a day off,” MLK Day is the only federal holiday designated as a National Day of Service to encourage all Americans to volunteer to improve their communities. This is a service for all ages, led by Steve Cooper, Director of Religious Education, and Youth Religious Education Committee.

January 23, 2022 @ 10:30am

"At The Threshold"

As we welcome the new year 2022, let's live with intention by uncovering everyday threshold moments and how small rituals can invite us to intentionally enter threshold moments in our communities. Guest speaker Rev. Allison Farnum is the Director and Minister of the Unitarian Universalist Prison Ministry of Illinois and an affiliated community minister at Second Unitarian Church of Chicago. She lives with her partner and two children in Evanston, IL. For more information, visit www.uupmi.org.

January 30, 2022 @ 10:30am

"You Can't Go Wrong with Ambiguity--Or can you?"

Ambiguity carries a challenge: to “disambiguate” or to hold the ambiguity in creative tension. Rev. Connie Grant speaking.



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, January 16 @ 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?

Sunday, January 30 @ Noon via YouTube

The Infinite Speed of Light

What if we lived in a universe where the fastest possible speed that any object or information could travel was the speed equal to that of light? What if, also, one could travel to the furthest reaches of the galaxy, or even to another galaxy, in mere seconds. Not only that, what if you could, without breaking any laws of nature, zip from here to a galaxy 100 million light-years distant in, essentially, no time at all. How can these ideas be reconciled? One way is to recognize that the speed of light is, from a certain practical standpoint, infinite!

During this Science Sunday, Scott Thompson will talk about the strange logic that allows the speed of light to be both finite and infinite. He will relate this to the mind-bending discovery by Albert Einstein regarding the way the rules of nature conspire to keep the speed of light, whatever value that may be, special. Thus, this is the first of two lectures about Einstein's special theory of relativity.

Special Collection

January 2022 Special Collection

The January special collection will benefit DUUC's SMILE project. The SMILE project was designed to provide mentoring and work experience to high school students who are not the top of their class, nor in the bottom quarter, but those who could use encouragement and help to prepare for entering the work force after high school. We are also

attempting to offer our congregation a means to help reduce racism in our community by creating opportunities for business people in our community to create relationships between themselves and young people of color. We have mentored 36 students, impacted 18 business groups, including two police departments. In addition family members from each student have felt the effects of these experiences as have the leaders of the four high schools which the students have attended.

All funds collected from any source will be used to fund the program. Overhead costs are very minimal, funding a few snacks and a celebratory cake. Costs also include paying for criminal background checks on our employer/mentors. Since many of our employers repeat from year to year, this cost for next year will be very small. The bulk of the funds are distributed to our students, amounting to \$692 per student.

The November special collection raised \$1064.99 for Holiday Meals on Wheels.

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

COVID Task Force Weekly Update

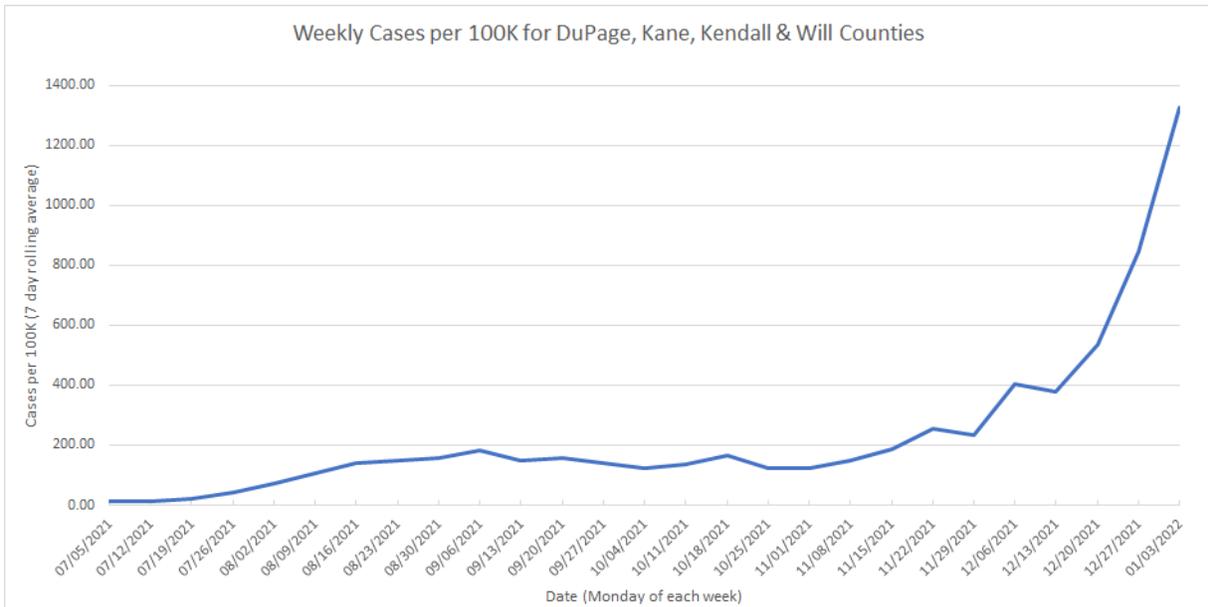
During the past week our four counties have averaged 4314 new confirmed Covid cases per day, this has



increased from 2745 the week before. The seven day rolling average Covid cases per 100,000 population for Monday, January 3 is 1327.31. This is a 57% increase from the previous week. DuPage County had fourteen Covid related deaths in the past 7 days. 44.8% of fully vaccinated people in DuPage County have received a booster dose. 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.



Recycle your Styrofoam

That annoying waste, Styrofoam, is being collected **January 9th**, from noon 'til 2:00 at church. Bring the environmental nuisance to the church foyer, and please bag packaging foam separately from food-use foam. Packing peanuts must be in their own bag. Styrofoam with paper labels is not accepted, and all foam must be clean. If the foam is really dirty, it's probably

not worth the water and energy that you will use to clean it, so trash that.

Other questions? Call Susan at (630) 961-2974. Wishing you a happy new year, your friends from Green Sanctuary.



Adult Enrichment Class: Building Your Own Theology

Are you envious of the young people in our Youth Religious Education program who can articulate their belief statements? This is your chance to explore Building Your Own Theology with other adults in a small group setting. Building Your Own Theology consists of ten 2-hour sessions which will meet **Sundays January 16 to March 20 from 1-3 PM**. All

sessions will be in-person and online via Zoom.

Caroline Bailey will be facilitating.

Please contact Caroline at 847-431-6471 or cjbbailey@comcast.net to register or if you have questions.

Book Enthusiasts! Come join the DUUC Book Club!

A CHANGE - ONLINE ONLY FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY

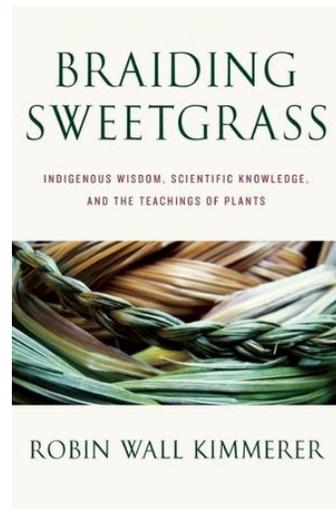
What's the book? Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer

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

Where: For the month of January - ONLINE ONLY 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 via Zoom for the DUUC Book Club. In January, we will kick off the year by discussing [Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer](#).

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.

DUUC Library New Featured Book

The 2021-2022 UU Common Read, *Defund Fear: Safety Without Policing, Prisons and Punishment*, by Zach Norris is a new addition to the DUUC Library. It is on display in the Library alcove area in Kreves Hall. The UU Common Read builds community in UU congregations by giving diverse people a shared platform for reflection and a shared focus for action. Multimedia resources for this Common Read, which will include a traditional discussion guide, will be provided through out the year. For more information about Defund Fear, Zach Norris, and the UU Common Read, visit: <https://www.uua.org/read>

The UU Common Read



Even when we cannot gather in person, a Common Read can still bring us together.



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=Y0FUNEMrVHIWUEZsTmhoNHJlRWJRQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87909200423?pwd=Y0FUNEMrVHIWUEZsTmhoNHJlRWJRQT09)

Meeting ID: 879 0920 0423

Passcode: 401647

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



Sunday Flowers Needed!

Celebrate a person or event by providing flowers for a Sunday service. Flowers are needed **January 30th**, as well as several dates in **February** and **March**. 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!

Church open for limited groups of 10 or less

The church is open for groups of ten or less. 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 and will have only ten chairs in the room with floor markings to indicate their proper distance. The rooms available are Founders, Learning Center, Kreves Hall and the rear corner of the Sanctuary. 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).

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



In the Wider Unitarian Universalist World

From Denominational Affairs



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
MULTIPLATFORM / PORTLAND • 2022

Register Now for In-Person GA 2022!

Registration is now open for in-person attendance. Full-time registration is \$475 for adults, and \$250 for high school youth and retired and candidate ministers. [Financial support](#) for registration, lodging credit within the [GA housing block](#), as well as a payment plan are available. In-person registration rates will increase on March 1 and again on May 1. **Registration for virtual participation will open March 1.**

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:

