



# Under the Dome

**Dunbar United Church of Christ  
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***An Open & Affirming Congregation***

## **Weekly Services**

**Sunday Mornings @ 10:00 A.M.**

**Saturday Evenings @ 5:00 P.M.**

# October 2023

## Pastor's Report, October 2023

I've been thinking about our Constitution — the Constitution of the United States, and especially, the First Amendment. It needs to be changed. Here's the problem I have with it — mainly, just a part of it, the part that guarantees free speech. We, the people, at least many of us, despite being made in the image of God, are in such a state of spiritual infancy or immaturity that allowing such undeveloped souls freedom of anything is a bad idea. Probably guns also — people who are too angry, too immature, too crazy, should not be allowed guns or any kind of weapon. But this report for October is about the free speech and the problems that's causing. Before going further, remember that the Bible didn't allow this "freedom" — did not consider it a "right" which anyone was allowed to exercise. The ninth commandment prohibits all forms of lying. King Solomon said false witness is among the six things God hates. Jesus said it defiles a person. I'm just realizing, maybe especially since 2016, that lying has become respectable and even encouraged as a winning strategy in business, politics, education — but it hasn't always been so well regarded and protected. Before this is a legal issue, it is religious. One of the holiest documents in human religious and legal history, the Ten Commandments, forbids lying and it offers punishments when people are caught doing it. Why does our Constitution—IN THE FIRST AMENDMENT—not just allow it, but protect people who practice it?

AND — why don't churches from all the denominations say more about this problem — WHY ISN'T THERE MORE OF AN OUTCRY? Or is this just bothering me because OH MY GOD I'm almost seventy and becoming an old man? Do I hate lying now so much because I'm becoming a curmudgeon ("a bad-tempered person, especially an old one")? Probably. Things bother me now more

than they used to. I can't stand it when someone uses the kitchen and doesn't wipe off the counter. And when my dog Gideon, who's cute and lovable, but when he grabs and eats the tissue I just put down on the table, I want to pick him up and body-slam him. Hopefully these emotional hiccups will subside as I acquire more of the Mind of Christ, which by the way I'm telling God to hurry up if he intends me to have this blissful state of equilibrium because TIME IS RUNNING OUT AND SO IS MY PATIENCE!

Anyway, there's a lot more I'd like to say about these things, but it's almost noon now, I have about a hundred things to do before five o'clock and I need to send this report to Nancy before midnight. So for now I will only say that I love you and every day thank God that it was in the divine plan that we spend this part of our journeys together.

Much love,  
George

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*Contact Pastor George @*

*Phone: (203) 287-8106 or*

*revonweb@sbcglobal.net*

## **Trustees**

The Trustees continue to monitor expenses and income. To date, financial results are within budget projections. After a summer hiatus, the Trustees will meet at the beginning of October.

Other activities have included mitigating basement water at the parsonage, arranging for the new kitchen door to be installed by the end of this month (finally), working with UI to replace a faulty electric meter in the Parish House, replacing a battery for the alarm back up system, and completing the inspection of all fire extinguishers both in the church and Parish House.

Respectfully submitted,  
John Donohue

## Board of Missions and Concerns

Hi Everyone, The Missions Committee is going to make donations to organizations we have given to in the past:

- 1) House of Heroes (for Veterans)
- 2) Alzheimer's Association (CT Chapter)
- 3) Yale New Haven Breast Cancer Program Fund
- 4) Guiding Eyes for the Blind
- 5) St. Jude
- 6) area food banks.

As always if you know of a need please let us know.

Take care,

Donna and the Missions Committee

### Attention All Bakers

We are asking again for your delicious home baked goods for the Bake Sale at the Apple Festival on Oct. 21.

We want to have the specific items that sell so well.

These are: Bars and squares, brownies, cookies, small loaves, muffins, fudge, and small pies of any kind except apple.

We will package or bag them.

You can drop them off on Fri, Oct. 20. 9:00AM to 3:00PM or Sat. morning the day of the festival.

If any questions, please call Jennifer Johnson at 203-605-7234. As always, thank you so much.

Saturday Service every Saturday at 5pm

In person only

## **APPLE PIES ARE AVAILABLE!!!**

Our 10" fresh baked or frozen deep dish apple pies are now available on Wednesday October 4 and Wednesday October 11. Frozen pies only are available Wednesday, October 18. Our mini baked frozen pies will be available starting October 4 as well.

Sugar free made on request for all sizes.

Our price is still only \$12 per pie (\$5 for mini)!

Pie orders can be called in to 203 281-3241 (or church office 203 288-2342 to leave a message).

Thank you!

Debbie Laffin

## **Christian Education**

The kids of the church are invited to help with selling at the Bazaar table during apple festival. Please let me know if your child is interested in helping out on October 21st.

Janet Manukas

## **Deacons**

Greetings to our church community.

The end of summer has been a relatively quiet time for the deacons. We assisted with welcoming visiting clergy while George was on vacation. In cooperation with Rev. George provided rent assistance for a community member.

The Deacons continue to work to support members of the congregation. Please do not hesitate to call on us.

Respectfully yours,  
Kitty Donohue

## **H.O.P.E.**

H.O.P.E. would like to thank those that donated this past month and helped us keep feeding others:

George and Janet Braen

Paul Furgalack and Anna Tamborino

Heather Sibley

Libby Wamser and Bill Bailey

Rev. George and Janet Manukas

Last month we donated to CT Foodshare during a matching offer. Our donation was able to be doubled!

This month we will be donating to Action Against Hunger to help those devastated by severe flooding.

If you would like to make a donation, you can do so by visiting our Dunbar website or send a check to Dunbar with HOPE in the memo.

Please help us keep up Helping Other People Eat.

Thank you again,

Debbie Laffin

Sunday Service 10am every Sunday is also available online via Zoom

Meeting ID 658 791 9474

Password 503008

To join by telephone, dial 929-205-6099 and enter the meeting ID. If prompted for a password, enter 503008.

## Apple Festival

SAVE THE DATE! Our 54th Apple Festival will be held on Saturday, October 21, 9a.m.-1p.m.!!

Please save your better than Goodwill items for Grandma's Attic and Grandpa's Tool Shed, saving in good condition books for our Book Sale and make items for Bazaar, Jams and Jellies and Bake Table. Please call if you need assistance bringing anything to Church.

We are starting fresh at our Jewelry Table, PLEASE go through your never-wear-anymore jewelry! Also our Raffle Table is back better than ever! We'll have great baskets thanks to so many that have donated!

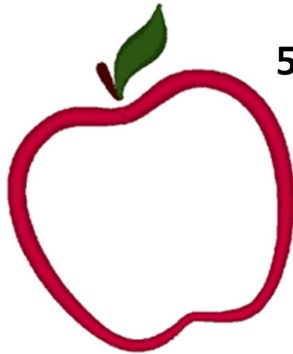
As always, we can use help any Wednesday. If you have any-time (especially Apple Festival Thursday/Friday for set up), come join us!

Thank you all who have responded so far! Let's keep this Mission tradition going!

Any questions, please call,  
Debbie Laffin  
203 281-3241

Bible Study every Wednesday via Zoom  
Meeting ID 658 791 9474  
Password 503008

To join by telephone, dial 929-205-6099 and enter the meeting ID. If prompted for a password, enter 503008.



**Join Us!  
54th Annual Apple Festival**

**Saturday  
October 21st  
9 am – 1 pm  
*Rain or Shine***



**10" Apple Pies @ \$12**

Our famous pie table will be offering 10" Deep Dish Apple Pies for only \$12 and mini apple pies for only \$5!

**Festival Day Activities**

**To-Go Apple Festival Café:**

*Apple Crisp  
Apple Pancakes  
Aebleskivers  
Cider, Coffee, Tea*



**Grandma's Attic Tag Sale  
Jams and Jellies  
Bazaar Table  
Jewelry Table  
Bake Sale  
Used Book Sale  
Back this year — Raffle Table**

**Proceeds go to outreach programs in the community.**



## *Dunbar UCC Open & Affirming Statement*

We, the members of Dunbar United Church of Christ, want Jesus to be the center of our lives. Our mission is to practice the New Commandment that Jesus gave us: to love one another as he has loved us (John 13:34). We seek to follow God's will by loving our neighbors, friends and enemies alike. We seek justice for all.

We celebrate the image of God in every person. As an Open and Affirming Church, we welcome all persons into the full life and ministry of our church, and affirm that the grace of God, known especially through Jesus, is a gift meant for people of every race, color, age, ability, and sexual orientation. Worship, leadership, ministry, and employment are open to all.

We are on a journey of faith and invite all people to join us. No matter the church or community where your journey began, you are welcome here.

### **Mission Statement**

“We believe that Jesus calls us to love each other, serve our neighbor, and nurture God's spirit within us.”