



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.

June 2023

Pastor's Report, June 2023

This year, Pentecost coincides with the Memorial Day Weekend. Is there a connection? I've done this before — but I need to look up Memorial Day again because — who remembers what it means or when it started?

Memorial Day is a time set aside to mourn those who have died fighting in our nation's wars. It is also the unofficial beginning of summer AND a chance to score a great price on a car, lawn mower, mattress — whatever.

AAA auto club says there will be a record number of travelers this Memorial Day — especially at airports. More than 42 million people are expected to travel 50 miles or more.

According to the Congressional Research Service, Memorial Day is a day of reflection and remembrance of those who died while serving in the U.S. military. Americans are encouraged to pause at 3 p.m. for a moment of silence.

But it is hard to trace where this all started, because various people and towns claim that Memorial Day originated with them.

Most agree that the holiday goes back to the Civil War, where more than 600,000 soldiers died, Union and Confederate, between 1861 and 1865. The first national observance was called Decoration Day, on May 30, 1868 — after an organization of Union veterans called for decorating war graves with flowers. But people were already doing that. Waterloo, New York, did something like that beginning on May 5, 1866 — so the town calls itself the “birthplace” of Memorial Day.

But Boalsburg, Pennsylvania, traced its first observance to October, 1864. And women in Confederate states were decorating the graves of their Civil War dead before the war ended.

Yale history professor David Blight says May 1, 1865, could be considered the beginning of Memorial Day when 10,000 people, many of them Black, dedicated the graves of Union dead in Charleston, South Carolina. But when a retired U.S. Army lieutenant colonel, who spoke in Hudson, Ohio, cited that story of the first Memorial Day honoring the mostly Black Union soldiers who died in Charleston, South Carolina, his microphone was turned off. He was told that what happened to the Black soldiers in South Carolina was not relevant to honoring Ohio's veterans.

Over time, the holiday drifted from its original purpose of remembrance and reflection. In 1871, abolitionist Frederick Douglass feared Americans were forgetting the Civil War's cause — slavery — when he gave a Decoration Day speech at Arlington National Cemetery. He said: "We must never forget that the loyal soldiers who rest beneath this sod flung themselves between the nation and the nation's destroyers."

By 1911, the meaning of Memorial Day had diminished to the extent that people no longer mentioned it. The Civil War was a distant memory. That year the first Indianapolis 500 car race was held in the presence of 85,000 spectators and the holiday was not mentioned. In 1972, Time Magazine said Memorial Day had become "a three-day nationwide hootenanny that seems to have lost much of its original purpose."

But this shouldn't surprise or upset us — because it's human nature. Even our Declaration of Independence says we were endowed by our creator to pursue life, liberty and happiness. It's our national DNA — so we can remember those who died — AND — have a picnic, go on vacation, and buy a new car — IN THE SAME DAY!

How can Pentecost compete with this? Maybe it doesn't have to. It doesn't have to be either-or. Either we mourn, or we party

— or pray. Can we do all? Ecclesiastes says yes — there’s a time for everything. Pentecost means that God’s spirit of compassion, Christ’s spirit of love, lives in us all the time — in every holiday, in every grief, in every celebration. God’s Spirit is our constant source of renewal and life, with no beginning or end, forever. “Living water,” Jesus called it. “Here,” he says, “have some.”

Contact Pastor George @

Phone: (203) 287-8106 or

revonweb@sbcglobal.net



Café Church

Dunbar will be hosting a Potluck Cafe Church on Sunday, June 4! Anyone willing to make a small amount of an item (doesn't matter if it's for breakfast, lunch, snack, baked, etc.) You do not have to make anything or contribute to enjoy this wonderful first June Sunday!! As you may know, nobody goes hungry at our Cafe Church! (and leftovers are up for grabs!)

Setting up all food at 9:45 with Rev. George leading the service at 10am. Hope to see you all there!!!



Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship would like to thank all that helped and contributed to a successful tag sale April 29! Our proceeds are usually about \$400 for our 3-hour sale; this year we raised \$700 on rainy gloomy day! We divided and donated the proceeds to BHCares (who helped us tremendously by taking unsold items) and the Hamden Food Bank. We were able to clear out a lot of the parish house basement so we can have Apple Fest start with a clean slate.

Respectfully Submitted,
Debbie Laffin, (203) 281-3241

Deacons

Spring greetings!

We are looking for additional choir members. Please consider joining this important musical ministry. Our choir meets every Tuesday at 7 pm.

The deacons continue to work to support members of the congregation in need. Please don't hesitate to reach out.

Respectfully yours,
Kitty Donohue

H.O.P.E.

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

George and Janet Braen

Heather Sibley

John and Lois Kasarauskas

Joe and Nancy Braen

Rev. George and Janet Manukas

This month we are donating to No Kid Hungry. This organization is part of Share Our Strength and its mission is to end childhood hunger in the United States.

Please, if you would like to make a donation in memory of, in honor of, as a gift for someone, or if you would just like to donate, 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, (203) 281-3241

Trustees

The Trustees continue to monitor church finances. To date, expenditures and income are within budgeted limits. We are working on small capital projects as well as maintenance items with the alarm system (backup batteries need replacing).

Respectfully Submitted,

John Donohue

Apple Festival

Our 54th Apple Festival will be held on Saturday, October 21, 9am -1pm. We will be starting pie making on Wednesday, September 13.

The following help is needed:

Tuesday morning, 10am, set up of kitchen and tables for peelers and rollers as well as peeling for start up on Wednesday.

Wednesdays 9am, peeling, rolling pie crusts, filling pies, learning to use the ovens for baking, selling the ordered pies, depositing proceeds, get supplies for pie making each week.

Other items include: calling our customer list to obtain orders, publicity, making pie dough (can be done any day), making items for bazaar, jams and jellies, bake table.

Also assisting Joe with counting, getting change for festival, saving your better than Goodwill items for Grandma's Attic and Grandpa's Tool Shed (starting fresh). Thinking of bringing back the raffle table this year, please let me know your thoughts.

Again, thank you all who have responded so far. Let's keep this mission tradition going!

Board of Missions and Concerns

Missions will continue through the summer months to help where there is a need. Missions is wishing everyone a happy and healthy summer. As always if we can help in any way or you know of a need please let us know.

Take care,

Donna, Jennifer J., Janet B., Phyllis, Debbie, Olga, Jodi and Lois

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.

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.

For those who would like to help with the Ukrainian Humanitarian effort.

Send your checks to:

St. Michael The Archangel Ukrainian Catholic Church

569 George St.

New Haven, CT 05411

Checks payable to: NH CT Ukrainian American Humanitarian Aid Fund, Inc

In the memo: Humanitarian Fund

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.”