



Under the Dome

**Dunbar United Church of Christ
767 Benham St, Hamden, CT 06514**

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An Open & Affirming Congregation

Weekly Services

Sunday Mornings @ 10:00 A.M.

Saturday Evenings @ 5:00 P.M.

June 2018

Pastor's report, June 2018

It's only ten o'clock AM and I've already picked a tick off my head, my left knee, and my right leg. Now I scratch my head every two minutes and keep looking at my clothing, certain there must be more. I was in the yard maybe 20 minutes, walking the dogs, and then using the hedge trimmers to cut back some bushes. Twenty minutes, three ticks.

An article in the May 18 edition of The Week magazine said the number of people diagnosed with diseases spread by mosquitoes and ticks tripled in the U.S. over the past decade, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Mosquito-borne viruses include Zika, West Nile, and dengue, while ticks spread Lyme disease and Rocky Mountain spotted fever. CDC's Lyle Petersen said "The numbers on some of these diseases have gone to astronomical levels." Experts say the main reason is the rise in higher temperatures caused by climate change that allow ticks and mosquitos to spread to and thrive in formerly cooler regions. Globalization is another factor because since it's easier and cheaper to travel, more people are visiting high-risk areas. The CDC "urges people to take precautions against bites." What does that mean? We have to cover ourselves with insect repellent every time we go outside? We have to be constantly checking ourselves for ticks?

Why did God make these pests? Why rattlesnakes and black mambas? There's enough venom in one bite of a black mamba to kill ten humans. Why God? Why did Noah bring lethal animals on the ark? If God told me to

build an ark and put two of everything on it, I would have left animals that might eat or kill me to drown in the flood. Just herbivores on my ark, and no ticks, mosquitoes or yellow jackets. But why would a loving God make these? No wonder there are so many atheists.

Did Adam and Eve have to worry about malaria? As they walked in Eden in the cool of the evening, did king cobras lurk in the grass? And living in the rocks under fruit trees, did flea infested rats carry bubonic plague? I wish Genesis explained this better. Why would a loving God make a leech or fill a pristine river with piranha?

We don't know why God created a world with disease and lethal predators. It's no wonder that when God was born into our human family, he came as a desperately needed healer. Jesus cured people with his words of peace, forgiveness, and love. He listened. "What do you want me to do for you?" he asked the blind Bartimaeus. "I want to see," the blind man said, and Jesus healed his eyes. Jesus told paralyzed people to stand up and walk. He cured emotional and psychic maladies, demonic possession and greed. A visit from Jesus moved the thief Zacchaeus to pay back everyone he robbed. Jesus called a dead man from his tomb, and the dead man, now alive again, walked out.

There is much we don't know. Why did a compassionate God make a world with disease and death? And if each of us is created in the image of this God, where did hate come from? Why is the devil, and the Lyme tick, thriving? Jesus did not explain these mysteries. He only said when someone is hungry, feed them.

When someone is a stranger, welcome them. When someone is not well, take care of them. At least there's nothing mysterious about love. Even a child understands it perfectly.

Yours, laying in green pastures, with ticks,
and sitting by the still waters, with snakes,

George

Contact Pastor George @

Phone: (203) 287-8106 or

revonweb@sbcglobal.net

Missions

Our Missions committee has decided to match the donations for blanket Sunday. We are looking into if there is a UCC Church that we may be able to help in Hawaii following the volcano eruptions. We also support Church members who walk for a cause. May is Lyme Awareness Month and we will be donating to Lyme organizations. Missions will be helping residents who have been affected by the recent storm and have already donated over \$160 in goods through a fundraiser led by the Hamden Special Education PTA.

As always we are here to help, Donna and our missions team

With hope and love,
Your Missions Committee



End of Year Picnic

June 10th After Church

Food, Bounce House, Lawn Games

Deacons

Deacon Bob Corona has been blessed with yet another beautiful great granddaughter, Aria Lynn Schanil. She's the daughter of Michelle and Brandon Schanil. Aria's baptism will be held June 10. Bob will be assisting Rev George in this wonderful service.

As of May 13, there has been changes made to the order of the elements of our service. These changes were made by the deacons in conjunction with Rev George.

The deacons discussed the organ and felt that it was underutilized. Suggestions were made to use it at the beginning of service (prelude).

Dunbar Church bell, call to worship for Sunday service. The deacons felt that the church bell should be rung to call us to worship. We thank Annie Manukas for volunteering to be our church bell ringer.

If there are any suggestions regarding service - please contact any of the deacons. Rides are available to service to those who need.

Please contact Kitty Donohue 203-887-9717

Respectfully yours,
The Board of Deacons

Debbie Laffin would like to send a shout out to all those that have offered help during this tornado time. They are just in the beginning stages, but your support means more than you know! Long haul ahead.

Thanks, Debbie and Peter

Christian Education

Caroline, Annie, Warren and Katie put into practice what they learned about communion and served the congregation on Sunday, May 6th. The major lesson from the communion lessons was that Jesus wants us to serve others and to stay connected to him. A good lesson for us all.

On Mother's Day, Michele and Annie potted plants donated by Mr. Chudoba. They gave these gifts away at the fantastic brunch provided by Bill and Crew.

Save the date, June 10th is the Trustees picnic. CE has arranged for a bounce house and lawn games.

Janet Manukas

Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship sends a big thank you to the handsome men who cooked a delicious Mother's Day Breakfast! Everyone was spoiled!!

June 10 is the End of the Year Picnic and we are trying our new Apple Marinated Chicken, cooked on our charcoal grill (donated by Ronald Warner, thank you!) as well as burgers and hotdogs, salads, and more! Games, bounce house and more to keep us busy! Looking forward to seeing everyone there for a happy summerish day!!

Just a reminder that the 50th Apple Festival will be held on Saturday, October 20, 2018. It's bigger and better than ever! This is the year you don't want to miss! Please INK this on your calendar!!

Pie making starts Wednesday, August 29, 2018, at 9:30a.m. Counting on you! All hands welcome!!

Thanks, Debbie

The 50th Apple Festival Celebration Luncheon will be held on Sunday, November 4, 2018, at Cascade in Hamden starting at 12 noon. The menu will include a Harvest Table of appetizers with Vegetable Crudités, International Cheese Displays, Bruschetta Station, Pasta Marinara, Chicken Florentine, Sliced Roast Beef, Mashed Potato Bar, Tossed Salad, Miniature Pastries, Coffee, Tea, Juice, Soda and our Celebration Cake! We have an easy access ballroom. Cash Bar will be available.

Women's Fellowship will be hosting this luncheon but will be asking for \$5 contribution from adults and \$2.50 for children to reserve your space. We have a limit of 150. Every church member, their families, anyone who had anything to do with the Apple Festival in the past 50 years and friends are invited to this very special day! We will be highlighting many pictures and special moments of our 50 years of Apple Pie Making!! Please plan on attending and get your tickets from Kathy Straka early! Tickets must be paid at time of reservation, sorry no holds.

Wow, what a day we will have to celebrate Dunbar!! Any questions, just call me, 203 281-3241. Debbie

The Connecticut State Police Cordially Invites

Our Religious Community Partners

To a presentation on:

SAFETY IN OUR HOUSE OF WORSHIP



A discussion on being safe in our sacred places
in these difficult days.



To be held at Dunbar United Church of Christ, UCC

767 Benham Street, Hamden, CT

Free parking on street and in front of the Church.

Car pooling is encouraged.

Do not block the Fire Station.

Saturday June 2, 2018

8:30 AM to 11:30 AM

8:30 AM light breakfast, 9:00-11:30 AM training session

RSVP to Dunbar United Church,

office.dunbar@gmail.com

or 203-288-2342



Trustees

The Trustees met to review financial statements, get updates on proposed activities and to plan for capital improvements. To date, the financials look good, with income and expenditures more or less in line with expectations and no major issues related to unexpected expenditures. Kathy Straka continues to spearhead activities related to the June 2 Active Aggressor training to be held at the church on June 2, coordinating outreach to and registration of individuals from local churches. The Trustees agreed to prioritize our list of capital improvements and begin with plans for updates of the parsonage kitchen, examination of the roof and dome for possible issues, and the removal of a multi-trunk tree that borders a neighbor's property and should be removed for liability reasons (the timing of this may be effected by the local damage done by the tornado and the ability to get a tree service).

Respectfully,
John Donohue

Davenport-Dunbar Residence Home Pantry

Items needed for the month of June:

Canned Baked Beans

Bush's and BM preferred

Mission Statement

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