



# Under the Dome

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

**Phone : (203) 288-2342**

**Email: [office.dunbar@gmail.com](mailto:office.dunbar@gmail.com)**

**[www.dunbarchurch.com](http://www.dunbarchurch.com)**

***An Open & Affirming Congregation***

## **Weekly Services**

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

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

# March 2018

# Pastor's report, March 2018

To begin the season of Lent our church hosted three Hamden churches (Mt. Carmel, Spring Glen, Hamden Plains) in an Ash Wednesday worship service. One of our hymns for Lent was "Friend of the Devil" by the Grateful Dead. My sermon used that theme of being a friend of the devil or a friend of Jesus. I said, "To be a friend of the devil we make a deal: Satan will protect us and make us great if we will build a wall and cause division among people. It can be a wall of iron and concrete or a wall of fear and bigotry around our hearts. The deal requires us to be afraid of people who seem "different."

Jesus commands us to love one another regardless of citizenship but if we want to be friends of the devil we need fear, not love. So don't say "undocumented" but call people "illegal" and say "they're bringing drugs, they're bringing crime, they're rapists." We need to be afraid of people who don't look like us, who speak other languages, who worship differently. That's the deal. If we will reinforce the walls of hatred and fear around our hearts, the devil will make us great.

I also said God sent us prophets disguised as football players whose message echoed the Biblical prophet Amos: "Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever flowing stream." But people booed these prophets and said "fire the sons of bitches," like Amos was booed thousands of years ago. The authorities in Israel fired Amos. And just as Amos was silenced, the cries of our football-player-prophets for justice and equality also ceased.

I said, “We nail Jesus to our flag, and the devil says: ‘Thank you my friends.’ But it’s still not too late to return to the Lord. Because even now Jesus holds his hand out to us saying, ‘Walk with me -- love one another as I love you -- and be my friend.’”

The sermon got mixed reviews. Including a letter mailed to me last week, titled “The Evil Crew of 32.” It seemed to be a response to my Ash Wednesday sermon and the message was that anyone who wants open borders is evil and defies the will of God. Because God wants a wall. The message said that if I don’t repent -- if I don’t stop preaching reconciliation and love for all people -- then God might fire me from being his minister and even remove me “from the face of the earth.” The letter asks, “Why are those that call themselves my people praying against my president?”

Actually, I only pray for people, not against them. Including the president -- and the person who sent this letter. I pray that God’s love will fill our hearts and minds. I pray that divisions between us heal and that we find a way to fulfill Jesus’ command to love one another. The first letter of John says: “There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear.” With God’s grace, that’s the truth I live by, in this season and the next.

Yours,  
with a love stronger than fear,

George

---

*Contact Pastor George @*

*Phone: (203) 287-8106 or*

*revonweb@sbcglobal.net*

## **Christian Education**

We gathered on Friday, February 2nd and helped the children to make about 12 dozen valentine heart cookies. Thanks to Barb for preparing the dough and to Nancy, Lois and Eleanor for rolling. The ovens were wonderful! The cookies were donated to Mission's Cookie Walk. The baking was followed by Communion Class. The classes will continue for March and April.

The children haven't decided on a Lenten Project yet but it may include grocery shopping for those in need.

Mark your calendars -- we'll have our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, April 1st immediately following church. That means that we'll be filling eggs on Sunday, March 25th during coffee hour. Lend us a hand if you can.

Janet Manukas

## **Davenport-Dunbar Residence Home Pantry**

### **Items needed for the month of March:**

#### **Pudding Snack Cups**



## **Deacons**

The Board of Deacons met briefly on February 11th. We confirmed that we will include communion in the Sunday service from Ash Wednesday to Easter. Tenebrae is March 28th. All are encouraged to attend this beautiful service. For Palm Sunday, Tom Parlapiano suggested that instructions to be printed in the bulletin on how to make decorative palms. Rev. George Manukas asked us to remind everyone about Centering Prayer during Lent—Sunday at 4pm. All are encouraged to attend. Our next deacons meeting will be March 4th following service. If there are any suggestions regarding services, please contact any of the Deacons. We'd also like to remind everyone that rides are available to those that need one—call Kitty Donohue at 203-887-9717.

Respectfully yours,  
Kathleen Donohue

## **Missions**

Our meetings are usually held the 1st Sunday of the month so if anyone has a need please let us know. Missions will be doing a basket of raffle tickets for the St. Patrick's Day dinner. Our cookie walk was a great success and the money will be used to help a Hamden family. Thanks to all that baked! It was enjoyed by everyone and we're thinking of doing it again next year at the soup luncheon. We are here to help members of the Church, the community, our country and wherever there is a need. Looking forward to another year of helping.

Always caring,  
Donna and the missions team

## Women's Fellowship

Thanks to all the amazing cooks and bakers who made the Superbowl Luncheon a great success! The proceeds are helping the Davenport/Dunbar food pantry and Donna's wonderful Cookie walk is helping a local family in need. Donna Burkbuckler is the Cookie Walk Queen!

St. Patrick's Corned Beef Dinner will be held on St.Pat's Day, March 17, at 6p.m. Seating at 5:45. Tickets are \$12 adult, \$6 children. Please contact Kathy Straka for tickets as seats are limited. As well as more corned beef served this year we are also adding a hot chocolate bar complete with whipped cream and chocolate sprinkles. There will be more corned beef, carrots, potatoes, cabbage, chicken nuggets, brown sugar carrots, hotdogs, mac n' cheese, green salad, fruit salad, brownies and more. As always there will be our green punch! Each board is donating a raffle basket! For \$1 you can purchase a ticket for one of these amazing baskets. Always such a fun event and all money goes to charity!

There will be a quick meeting after service on March 4 for St. Pat's volunteers, for purchasing, set up, cooking, serving, etc.

Women's Fellowship has coffee hours for March:

March 4 \_ Tracey P, Linda K, Debbie L.

March 11 - Sandy and Steve Hurd

March 18 - Sandy K., Jenn J. Debbie L.

March 24 - Danielle B. Kathy S.

Thanks to you all for contributing.

April 1 Easter Sunrise Breakfast will be directly after Hindinger Sunrise Service. We will be serving our scrambled eggs, sausages, rainbow sprinkled pancakes, hash browns, ham and pineapple, grits, breads, assorted beverages and more. Donation \$5. All proceeds go to feed the hungry. Hope you all can make it to this wonderful start of Easter day!

Thanks,  
Debbie

## **Trustees**

The Board of Trustees met on February 7th. We reviewed and approved the Treasurer's Report, discussed issues related to plowing the sidewalk to the Columbarium, seeking a quote for replacement of light fixtures in the Fellowship Hall, posting No Hunting signs at the Benham Street preserve, and approved the use of the Parish House to store food for the Davenport-Dunbar pantry.

The Board elected the following assignments for 2018:

John Donohue, Chair

Gary Burkuckler, Vice Chair

Rodd Dryfoos, Secretary

The Trustees also made plans for the Raffle basket and made assignments for the collection schedule. The next meeting is on March 14.

Respectfully,  
John Donohue

# St. Patrick's Day Dinner

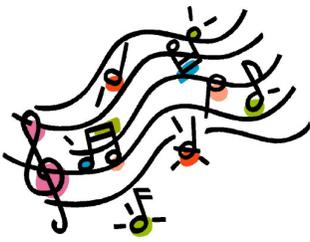
**A non-alcoholic celebration**

**Saturday March 17, 2018**

**6:00pm - 8:00pm**

**Seating begins at 5:45pm**

**Music by Blue Trail**



**Come join us for dinner and live music!**

**Traditional dinner featuring more corned beef, cabbage, carrots and potatoes, all prepared in the church kitchen. Children's menu includes hot dogs, chicken nuggets, noodles, and brown sugar carrots.**

**New feature: Hot Chocolate bar!**

**Irish soda bread, green salad, fresh fruit, breads, beverages and desserts are included.**

**Donation for dinner \$12.00 per person.**

**Children 11 and under \$6.00.**

**Seating is limited. Tickets are to be purchased in advance.**

**Seats will not be reserved.**

**For Questions and Tickets Contact: Kathy Straka 203-281-1034**

**Find us on our web site [www.dunbarchurch.com](http://www.dunbarchurch.com). You may make "Spirit Donations" online if you cannot join us in person.**



# EASTER PLANTS



Easter is April 1. It's time to order your potted Easter plants.

The price is still only \$8.00 each and you can choose from:

DAFFODIL

HYACINTH

TULIP



The sign up sheet is in the narthex and the deadline is March 25. Please make your check payable to DUCC, mark it Easter Plants and place it in the offertory plate.

Each year these beautiful flowers decorate the altar for Easter and then go home with you after Easter Sunday services so you can enjoy them.

If any questions please contact Jennifer Johnson.

Thanks to all.



## **Mission Statement**

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