



# 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.**

# May 2023

## Pastor's Report, May 2023

We are four weeks past Easter. We've seen the post-resurrection appearances of Jesus, on the road to Emmaus, at the tomb with Mary, in the locked and boarded-up house where the frightened disciples hid from people who wanted to arrest them, and probably execute them too, like Jesus. Even Thomas saw Jesus and he stopped doubting. Finally Jesus appeared by the Sea of Tiberias (also called Sea of Galilee, Lake Tiberias, Sea of Chinnereth and Lake of Gennesaret). Jesus appeared, and appeared, and again appeared. And he continues to appear, visiting each of us daily. I just came from my daughter Annie's 16th birthday party at Raymond and Pam's house in North Haven. Jesus was there. I saw him when Annie and her cousins all together made the love sign with their hands and laughed and asked some of the adults to make that sign and we did, and that made them laugh harder. Jesus was in Janet's fiery voice when I kept asking her what the pink things were on top of Annie's ice cream cake. "You don't like them." She said. Finally I realized they were Peeps from Easter. And she was right — I don't like them. But I said, "Very pretty." I asked my sister-in-law Natalie, who's always so bubbly and kind and ready to help anybody, I asked her, "Natalie — does anyone ever get angry with you?" And before she could answer, her husband, Chris, said, "Yeah — I do!" We laughed. And Jesus was there.

I said to all the adults gathered there — because the girls had gone outside — "Well — I need to go home now and write this Dome report. Sorry I'll have to miss the cake." I asked Janet to text Annie to see if she and her cousins wanted to come back inside and have cake now, with me, or have it later and they could save me a piece because I had to go soon. She said the girls will have the cake now. They sat down at the table, just the four of them and I was there — I said, "OK — lets sing. Happy birthday...." They said wait, wait for the other people!! The

other adults came in the room. Then we lit the candles and sang and took pictures afterwards, everyone had their phones out taking pictures. John, Janet's younger brother said, "Ray (still healing from his broken knee/leg) wants to be there too. Ray came hobbling into the room with his crutches and we sang again, a second time — we relit the candles and sang again -- "Happy birthday..." More pictures, laughter, smiling. Janet cut the ice cream cake and passed out plates. We talked about the Quinnipiac hockey team and their recent NCAA victory over Minnesota. Some of the people at the table were at Tampa to see that game. Jesus was at the table with us just like he was at the house at Emmaus. We ate the ice cream cake with the inedible but lovely pink Peeps, and people relived the hockey game, the girls took more pictures and made more hand signs. They took pictures with apps that made people have a lot of big, puffy hair, made us all look like freaks. They think that's so funny. They record everything, take pictures of everything. Jesus got in a few of the pictures. Jesus with the big, puffy, freaking hair.

Just as I got home, Sr. Carolyn called and said she couldn't make it to Centering Prayer tomorrow at Sacred Heart, Caritas Center, for the monthly centering prayer meeting. "Please lead the group," she said. "Make one of your little presentations. Kathy will take care of the reading." "OK," I said, "Please get well quickly." Of course, Jesus was there, listening as we spoke, assuring us that he would be there too, centering with us. Listening to the scripture passage with us. I heard him say, "I'll be there too."

Jesus told Mary and the disciples that he would go ahead of them, he'd meet them in Galilee. He's there -- here -- now, in Galilee, Galilee in North Haven at the birthday party, Galilee in Hamden watching Netflix with loved ones, watching *Midsummer Murders*. Galilee is everywhere, the heart of the world, the

heart that beats in us. Galilee is everywhere. Jesus goes ahead of us, to Galilee, everywhere, right now. Look. Listen. Here he is. Jesus .

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*Contact Pastor George @*

*Phone: (203) 287-8106 or*

*revonweb@sbcglobal.net*

## **Trustees**

The Board of Trustees met to review the financials for the church. Income and expenditures are within budget. We completed the replacement of the church roof right after Easter. The elevator needed repair and that was done as well--thanks to George Braen for his help with this. We will be planning a few minor capital repairs for the summer.

Respectfully Submitted,  
John Donohue

## **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 1st 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 as of this contribution to the Dome is organizing a tag sale on April 29. A BIG shout out to Kris Larsen who brought in so many donations!! We hope to have a successful day where proceeds go to local charities. Donna and Gary Burkbuckler have helped with set up and have BHCares come for pick up after to take whatever they need. Karen Corona has been so dedicated in setting up and pricing for many hours! Thank you for all that have donated.

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

## **Board of Missions and Concerns**

Hi Everyone,

For April Missions is continuing to help veterans and George Braen suggested Wounded Warriors. In keeping with helping animals in need, we donated to the Dan Cosgrove Animal Shelter in Branford. For tornado relief we once again donated to the Red Cross. Helping children we made donations to March of Dimes, Nutmeg Big Brothers Big Sisters and toys for the Ukraine Toy Drive and shipping (thanks to everyone who donated!) April is MS month (Gary and I will be walking and delivering our donation from Missions). And to continue our support for the homeless we purchased hygiene products for the Dixwell Avenue hub.

As always thanks for your continued support.

Always caring,  
Donna and the Missions Committee

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

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

Janet Sola

John and Lois Kasarauskas

Barbara Gengarelly

George and Janet Braen

Rev. George and Janet Manukas

Heather Sibley

This month we will be donating to IRIS to help with food needs. IRIS helps in so many ways to get people adjusted to their new homes. Getting them accustomed to new foods, how to use them and still be respectful to their needs is so important.

Please, if you would like to make a donation in memory of, in honor of, as a gift from 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 us Helping Other People Eat!

Thank you again,

Debbie Laffin, (203) 281-3241

Cindy Long would like to extend an invitation to the congregation to her mom's Celebration of Life memorial service.

It is scheduled for Sunday, May 28, 2023 at 1 pm.

## **Deacons**

Spring Greetings!

The Deacons had a busy Easter season preparing the church. Thank you for those who helped out with Holy Week and Easter.

Please remember there are those that are alone. If there is anyone that you are concerned for, or you think would like a visit please let us know. Also if there are any suggestions regarding the service, please contact any of the Deacons.

Rides are available to service to those who need them.

Kitty Donohue 203 887 9717

Respectfully yours,

Kitty Donohue

Hi All, Thanks to all that have volunteered in advance to hopefully have another successful 54th Apple Festival! Because you are helping, we can keep it going. We will be starting later this year on Wednesday, September 13, fresh pies, then frozen the next week. In June DOME will be posting possible opportunities for everyone to participate. Everyone welcome to continue this mission! (keep your Wednesday mornings free to join us, we need your help!)

This year the festival will be on October 21.

Thanks, Debbie

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.”