



# 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.**

# September 2018

## Pastor's report, September 2018

One of the themes in the Old Testament book of Ecclesiastes is that “there is nothing new under the sun.” The author, sometimes called Qoheleth, believes that life repeats itself. He says, “What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again.” Ernest Hemingway’s first novel, *The Sun Also Rises*, is named from a verse in Ecclesiastes: “The sun rises and the sun sets, and then it rises again.”

By that title, Hemingway suggested there’s a monotony or even meaninglessness to our lives because we are fated to repeat what people have done in the past, and in the future, people will repeat what we have done, and on and on and on like the sun rising and setting as its done for millions of years. Nothing is new. Ecclesiastes concludes chapter one saying, “Is there anything of which one can say, ‘Look! This is something new’? It was here already, long ago; it was here before our time. And no one remembers the former generations, and when you die, they won’t remember you either.”

Not a cheerful thought, and yet, so honest and refreshing! Ecclesiastes was the first book I read in the Bible and I thought it was so wonderful -- such a confirmation of experience -- so true. It impressed me so much that I dedicated my life to studying the Bible. Now, after 40 years of study and exploration, I feel like I’m just starting.

History confirms Qoheleth’s observations. Nations and empires rise and fall, and other nations take their place. Remember that poem “Ozymandias” in our high school literature anthologies? A short poem about a great

king who said, "My name is Ozymandias, King of Kings; Look on my works ye Mighty and despair!" But all that remained of Ozymandias was a broken statue buried in the middle of a desert with just the broken head sticking out of the sand. And whether we're Caesar or his servant, the story of Ozymandias will be repeated for each of us.

Life repeats itself. In our own nation, I see an ancient story of the Bible repeating itself right now. It's the story about the most powerful, wealthy, advanced nation on earth oppressing the citizens of a weaker nation who needed the stronger nation's help. The Bible story is Exodus. Egypt was the great nation and Israel the struggling country that was starving because of a famine. Israel sought refuge in Egypt and at first Egypt helped but then Pharaoh changed and made the Israelites his slaves and exploited them. The Israelites cried to God and God called Moses who single-handedly, with God, crushed the Egyptians and led the Israelites to "a land flowing with milk and honey."

This story is being repeated now with the United States in the role of ancient Egypt and desperate citizens of Mexico, Central and South America, Syria, Costa Rica, the Middle East and Africa in the role of the ancient Israelites. I see our country now repeating the mistakes of Pharaoh as he persecuted the poor and vulnerable people of Israel. Pharaoh, numb to the suffering of the foreign people in his land, only wanted to make Egypt great again.

As we know, it doesn't end well for the Egyptians with Pharaoh and his mighty army dead and floating like swollen logs in the Red Sea. I hope there's still time for

us, the modern version of Ancient Egypt, to repent and change our course and help the ones Jesus called “the least of these.” I’m praying that our nation will show its greatness by helping the poor and suffering refugees and asylum seekers that God brings to us. And I hope it happens before a new Moses appears. Because if and when the new Moses arrives, as we learned from Exodus, it will be good news for the poor and suffering, but not for the rest of us.

Yours, on the bright horizon of a new year,

George

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*Contact Pastor George @*

*Phone: (203) 287 -8106 or*

*revonweb@sbcglobal.net*

## **Christian Education**

CE is having the kids dust off their acting skills! We've found a curriculum for kids of all ages that has us act out stories from the Old Testament and New Testament -- and not just the typical stories of Noah and the Garden of Eden. Some of these stories are sure to surprise and inspire. Sunday school classes begin on September 9th and we will once again meet in the Parish House. The more kids the better!

See you then.

Janet Manukas

## **Deacons**

Summer is coming to a close and the deacons will begin their regular monthly meeting on September 9. The deacons will be planning to support Rally Day, Hot Dogs for Hope and the Apple Festival.

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

Please contact Kitty Donohue  
203-887-9717

Respectfully yours,  
The Board of Deacons

## **Missions**

Missions will have a meeting on September 16th the same day as Hot dogs for HOPE . That day, we will be having a bake sale and we are looking for the same kind of items that we sell at the Apple Festival bake table. Thanks to everyone it was a great success last year! We are looking forward to continuing helping where ever needed.

Thanks for your support,  
Donna and the missions members

## **Mission Statement**

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

## Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship is gearing up for a grand **50th Apple Festival** on October 20, 2018, from 9-3! We will be both indoors and outdoors, offering a large variety of booths and activities and offering a special lunch menu this year! Please plan on attending this big anniversary of the Apple Festival!

**Pie making** starts August 29, 9:30, and will continue every Wednesday until the week of the festival. Tuesday's crew will start September 4 at 5:30pm for peeling, rolling and pie making set up. During festival week we will be making pies Wednesday, Thursday and Friday starting at 9a.m., as well as setting up our festival tables. All members, family and friends are encouraged to come help! Any of your time is so appreciated! The price of pies is still \$11 and can be ordered by calling Ginny Granquist (203-248-5484) during the week or calling the church (203-288-2342) on Wednesday mornings.

**Crafty people:** we are looking for craft items to sell at our bazaar table! We are looking for hand made items that would give our table more variety. Anything from knitting, sewing, crafting to Christmas decorations are needed.

During your fall cleaning, please keep **Grandpa's Tool Shed and Grandma's attic** in mind. We are looking for better than Goodwill items such as kitchen ware, knick knacks, artwork, glassware, puzzles, toys, dishes, accessories, JEWELRY, garden tools, woodworking tools, (really any TOOLS!), arts and crafts, books, pet items, small household appliances that work, etc. Please no computers, TV's, furniture, encyclopedias, magazines, clothing/shoes or broken items. Items can be brought to church in October or please call me to make arrangements.

Thanks,  
Debbie Laffin  
203 605-4621

We are looking for memories of the past 50 years of the Apple Festival that are important to you. We want them included! If you have photos, and /or memories, please get them to me! Would love stories about how much you enjoyed/volunteered for Apple Festival. Maybe you have a memory of a parent /grandparent participating that you could contribute. Any comments, contributions are so welcome! Nothing is too small to share! For most of us, this is a once in a lifetime celebration and we are celebrating big time!

Debbie—203-281-3241

**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

## **Trustees**

While the Trustees have not met during the summer, we have been pursuing a few issues. We are planning follow up activities related to our Active Aggressor event, are seeking quotes for refinishing the wood floor in the main church area. We coordinated with the Water Authority to install a new water meter and are arranging for a tree to be removed along the property line with a neighbor. All finances in terms of income and expenditures are in line and fiscally we are in good shape.

Respectfully,  
John Donohue

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

Hi all! Thanks for the oatmeal last month. We are now packing 60 supplement bags filled with nutritious meals for the Davenport-Dunbar seniors. We distribute every other Friday morning in the Community Room, that was dedicated in recognition of the many years that our Chuck Walters was on the Board of Directors.

We'd welcome donations of granola bars this month and they are on special at many of the local grocery stores. The donation box has been moved to the front hallway to the right of the door!

For more information, contact Sandra Kops at 203-288-2535.