



# 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.**

# **Summer 2023**

## Pastor's Report, Summer 2023

We're about a month into summer now. Some years ago I had a ritual where I'd watch the Walt Disney movie Summer Magic as a way of celebrating the season and recognizing "the lazy, hazy, crazy days" that were ahead. There used to be this magical aura that summer had — maybe because of the school breaks from childhood and going on vacation to St. Petersburg, Florida and playing hide-and-seek in the yard as the day grew dark and the lightning bugs came out. "Roll out those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer," Nat King Cole sang, "those days of soda and pretzels and beer. Roll out those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer, dust off the sun and moon and sing a song of cheer."

That's what summer was — a song of cheer. Now summer has lost some of its Walt Disney glow and it's more a season of weather alerts and new heat wave records and once-in-a-thousand-year catastrophic floods, fires, tornadoes and hurricanes. Summer is now a time to brace ourselves for climate change repercussions. Farmers Insurance has pulled out its coverage from Florida and parts of California, with more states to follow. And when Nat Cole sang about hazy days, he didn't mean smoke pollution from wildfires. And did he know that the artificial sweetener in sodas caused cancer? Did he realize that pretzels, those baked pastries of white flour and salt, aren't healthy — and did he know that beer companies would be boycotted because they reach out to transgenders and others not in the sexual orientation mainstream? Did Nat King Cole anticipate all this horror that something as lovely and joyful and carefree as summer would turn into? Are we living in the end-time???

My God, I'd love to go back to those lazy, hazy crazy days of sodas and pretzels and beer, days when you could eat and drink all that stuff and not feel so guilty, when the hazy days didn't

cause asthma and upper respiratory diseases. They were just hazy days. And crazy was just about going out and having wild fun and didn't mean you had to fill yourself with tranquilizers and medications to keep from going insane.

Look at the nightmare we've made for ourselves, the hot earth, polarization among people who used to call themselves neighbors, chemicals and pollutants in our foods. And all of this doom-thinking the result of my free-associations from Walt Disney's Summer Magic. Whew — maybe I do need this vacation. If you've ever seen the movie I'm talking about here — Summer Magic — it's a variation of Cinderella and Snow White and Beauty and the Beast, where a well-to-do Boston family is down on their luck and has to sell their stuff and house and move into the country in Beulah, Maine — they live in a nice country house but can't afford the rent and they become poorer and poorer but in the end Hayley Mills and the rich owner of the property fall in love at a square-dance and it looks by movie's end that they'll marry and live happily ever after.

I wish Disney had given us his version of the gospels, maybe something where the poor carpenter's son Jesus meets and falls in love with the queen of someplace and they form an alliance of kingdoms on the earth and bring about a lasting peace that carries over to the next life and even the devil has a conversion and dedicates his life to helping people resolve conflicts and soldiers melt their weapons and war-machinery into plows and solar-powered cars. I guess, in his way, that's exactly what Disney tried to do — but these days, even that company is struggling. We're all struggling with something. Which, I suppose, is how it should be. That's life.

Jesus said: "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life

for my sake will find it.” Because that’s life. It’s not a fairy tale or a way without pain or suffering, but it is the path, somehow, to happily ever after. The real path, including, somehow, now, this moment. Maybe it doesn’t make sense. But don’t blame Jesus. People didn’t understand him then either. And God never asked us to understand, only to trust. So let’s thank God, no matter how lazy and hazy and crazy our days get. And while we’re at it, we may as well dust off the sun and moon and sing a song of cheer.

Much love,

George

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*Contact Pastor George @*

*Phone: (203) 287 -8106 or*

*revonweb@sbcglobal.net*

Congratulations to and good wishes for five recipients of Dunbar United Church Women's Fellowship who will be awarded \$500.00 checks to continue their higher education.

Mary Braen

Emily Dryfoos

Onilda Lopez

Janet Manukas

Laura Whiskeyman

## **Board of Missions and Concerns**

Hi Everyone, These are the organizations that Missions has given to this past month.

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness - the Greater New Haven Chapter)

Children's Tumor Foundation (for research to end NF in children)

IRIS (Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services)

Special Olympics

K9's for Warriors( they pair shelter dogs with veterans)

The Trevor Project-for PRIDE Month (This is the world's largest suicide and mental health organization for LGBTQ young people)

These are all worthy causes that we have given to in the past.

Take care and stay cool,

Donna and the Missions Committee

## **Deacons**

Summer greetings from your Deacons!

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

We are fortunate and thankful to have Rev. Hiram Brett and Rev. Carolyn Young, who are our Summer supply pastors while Rev. George is on vacation.

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

Paul Furgalack and Anna Tamborino

John and Lois Kasarauskas

Heather Sibley

Rev. George and Janet Manukas

This month we are donating to Breakthrough Church Food Pantry located in southern Hamden and serving that area with an open pantry on Saturdays.

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

## **Trustees**

Summer is traditionally a quiet time for the Trustees.

We continue to monitor income and expenditures, which are generally in line with budget. We engaged with a tree service to take down two trees near the parsonage--which has been an issue that has needed addressing for some time.

Respectfully submitted,

John Donohue

# Apple Festival

SAVE THE DATES!!!!

Our 54th Apple Festival will be held on Saturday, October 21, 9a.m. to 1 p.m.!

Pie making starts Wednesday, September 13, at 9 a.m.!

The following help is needed:

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

Wednesday, 9a.m., peeling, rolling pie crusts, filling pies, learning to use the ovens for baking (thank you John Kasarauskas!), selling the ordered pies, depositing proceeds each week, 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/night of the week), making items for bazaar, jams and jellies, bake table.

Assisting Joe with counting, getting change for festival and sorting start up envelopes, saving your better than Goodwill items for Grandma's Attic and Grandpa's Tool Shed, going through your never worn jewelry for our jewelry table, saving in really good condition books for our book sale, and volunteering for a job at the Apple Festival!

Thinking of bringing back the raffle table this year. Asking boards if they would donate a themed basket for the table this year, as well as Women's Fellowship donating at least one basket as well. Baskets will be provided (I've been collecting all sizes), you only need to fill them with any theme you'd like. Every themed basket in the past has been a big hit and our Apple Festival customers missed it last year. Please let me know what you think.

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

Any questions, please call,

Debbie Laffin

203 281-3241

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.”