



# 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.**

# April 2026

## **Pastor's Report, April 2026**

The Jeopardy question for this issue of the Dome is: “Who did God raise from the dead on that first Easter morning, two thousand years ago?” Music..... Dah, dah, dah, dah, dah, dah, dah — dah, dah, dah, dah, dah — dah, dah, dah, dah, dah....

Answer this question correctly and you may win either: 1) a set of matching steak knives purchased not too long ago from eBay, in slightly used condition. These are impressive, precision-crafted cutlery, which, except for minor dullness and some cracks in the handles, could pass for new. The other prize is: 2) a refurbished Shark vacuum cleaner, also in “as-new” condition but with just the faintest cat-litter odor after about three minutes of use. Of course either of these gifts can be exchanged for the people's favorite, an all-expense-paid evening for two at the Waterbury Motel 6 in a specially-chosen suite that offers clear and expansive views of Interstate 84. Again, one of these desirable prizes may be yours if you can correctly answer the question: “Who did God raise from the dead that first Easter morning?”

This question is no joke because you would be amazed how many Christians do not know the answer. Maybe all of us need to be reminded, from time to time, that our religion is based on the teachings of a Mediterranean Jewish peasant who lived in the first century A.D. whose last name we don't know but who went by the common first name of Jesus. He was raised in the small town of Nazareth, and later moved in his late 20's-early 30's to the northern and cosmopolitan region of Israel called Galilee which included a great lake, called the Sea of Galilee, where he found some of his disciples, who were fishermen. Everything he taught was based on God's unconditional and infinite love for all people and how we, if we follow him, are to mirror that love in our lives. We are to reflect that love and

goodwill and compassion to everyone, even our enemies. Many Christians do not know this. Many Christians have removed Jesus from their religion.

Our Secretary of Defense, who identifies as a Christian, said, “It takes money to kill bad guys” when he asked for 200 billion more dollars to fund the Iran war. He also said, “We negotiate with bombs.” By his statements, the secretary gives no evidence that Jesus plays any part in his religion, which he calls Christianity. The humility and compassion of Jesus are not in secretary Hegseth’s statements. Jesus has been removed from the religion of millions of “Christians.” Our question to ponder this Easter season: Can there be Christianity without Jesus? This takes us back to our opening question — Who did God raise on the first Easter two thousand years ago? If it was Jesus, then we need to realize that he is the heart of our Christian faith and we cannot remove him or his teachings from our religion. Because we believe the one God raised on the first Easter, Jesus, the poor, dark-skinned foreigner from Nazareth, is the same one God is raising in us, day by day.

Yours, with love,

George

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*Contact Pastor George @*

*Phone: (203) 287 -8106 or*

*revonweb@sbcglobal.net*



## H.O.P.E.

H.O.P.E. would like to thank those that have generously donated this past month:

George and Janet Braen

Heather Sibley

Janet Sola

John and Lois Kasarauskas

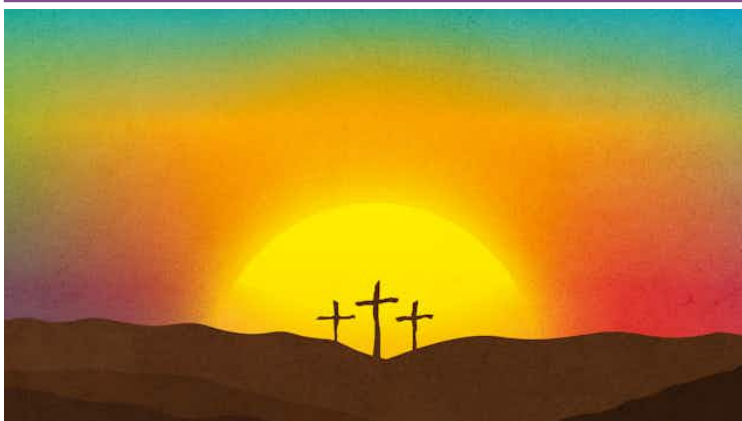
John and Charlotte Sroka

This month we will be donating to the Community Soup Kitchen of New Haven.

CSK provides both hot meals and groceries with caring and respect. They have started the "Closing the Meal Gap" program improving meal service through local organizations and neighborhoods. They have five locations through New Haven: Broadway, Newhallville, The Hill, Fair Haven, Dixwell and the corner of Grand and Ferry St.

If you would like to make a donation, you can do so by visiting our website or mailing a check with HOPE in the memo.

Thank you for supporting Helping Other People Eat,  
Debbie Laffin



Easter Sunrise Service

April 5, 2026

6:30am

Come join us for a meaningful outdoor Easter Sunrise Service with Rev. George followed by a free Easter Sunrise Breakfast featuring John K's pancakes, eggs, sausages and more!  
What a great way to start our celebration for Easter!



# Holy Week

## **Deacons**

The deacons have been preparing for Easter. We welcome our wonderful church community to participate in these upcoming Holy week and Easter services.

Holy Week

### **Tenebrae - Thursday, April 2nd at 7pm.**

We will be conducting the service in person at church and no Zoom access is planned.

Please join us in this important service.

### **Good Friday Vigil Friday, April 3rd**

The church will be open from 12 to 3 pm.

There will be a deacon present during the vigil.

Please join us in prayer.

### **Easter Sunday, April 5th**

Sunrise Service will be at 6:30 am outside on the church lawn  
10 am Easter Service inside (with Zoom access)

The Deacons continue to work to support members of the congregation in need. Please don't hesitate to reach out, we are here to help.

Respectfully yours,  
Kitty Donohue

## **Trustees**

The Trustees met in March and re-elected John Donohue as chair.

We reviewed the 2026 budget and began the process for prioritizing capital projects for they year.

Expenditures and income are aligned with expectations with no items of concern.

Items for consideration include redoing the corner plot by the church sign (a holdover from 2025), painting the playground, security lighting and video cameras (to name a few). These will be discussed at the next meeting in April.

The roofing project for the Parish House has been completed (funded by funds bequeathed by Ginny Granquist). Next up is developing a proposal for window replacement and siding.

Respectfully submitted,  
John Donohue

## **IT'S TAG SALE TIME!**

Come on down and grab a bargain on Saturday, April 11, 9am – noon! You can get something you never knew you needed! While you are spring cleaning, please consider saving those items in good condition for our tag sale.

Clothing, sheets, towels and other textiles in great shape, books in good condition, puzzles, toys, sporting goods, tools, kitchenware, working appliances, pots and pans, dishes, glassware, jewelry and weird stuff, etc. are needed.

Looking for extra help to sort, price and pack as well.

Any questions, please call.

Debbie Laffin  
203 281-3241

## Board of Missions and Concerns

Hi Everyone,

Missions is donating to

- 1) National MS Society-CT (in memory of Phyllis Gibbs)
- 2) Doctors Without Borders (in memory of Bruce Detmer)
- 3) St. Jude Children's Research Hospital (in memory of Linda Braen)
- 4) Special Olympics
- 5) Fisher House (VA West Haven Campus—a home away from home for families and patients receiving inpatient care at the VA or YNHH)
- 6) House of Heroes CT (perform repairs for military and public safety veterans)
- 7) Tunnel to Towers (since 911 they have been helping America's heroes by providing mortgage free homes to Gold Star and fallen first responders families with young children).

As always please let us know if you know of a need. Thank you for your continued support.

Take care,

Donna and the Missions Committee

Dunbar United Church Women's Fellowship will be accepting College Scholarship Applications again this year from interested church members. Completed application forms should be received by 12:00 noon on May 25th, 2026.

Application forms will be available beginning in March.

Any questions please contact Debbie Laffin.

## **Remembering and Celebrating Meg Nowacki**

We'll be celebrating our Meg Nowacki on Saturday, May 2, at 11:00 a.m. Please join us to remember such an important person to Dunbar. She would hate the attention, but she deserves it! Her faithful service, juggling many hats and generosity in all ways will be remembered.

Women's Fellowship will sponsor a deli luncheon with baked goods to be served after the service.

If you would like to bake a dessert, help set up or clean up, please let me know. All helping hands appreciated!

Debbie

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.

Saturday Service every Saturday at 5pm

In person only

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.

## *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, gender 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.”