



# 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.**

# February 2025

## Pastor's Report, February 2025

One of the features of the Bible that people like is how, even though it's an ANCIENT collection of books and letters, it still seems current — it imitates our lives, thousands of years after it was written. And recent events have even corresponded with the scripture selections of the lectionary! In the next two Sundays we will be reading how Jesus went to his hometown of Nazareth shortly after he was baptized. And he was rejected by his people because they didn't like his message that God loves everyone, not only Jews, but foreigners too — even enemies of the Jewish people. The whole congregation ran after Jesus and tried to push him off a cliff for saying that. He got away — I don't think he ever visited Nazareth again, where the people chanted “Israel First” and “Make Israel Great Again.” Jesus, with his message of God's love for everyone, was not welcomed there any more.

On Tuesday, January 21, Jesus was rejected at the Washington National Cathedral. His disciple, Rev. Mariann Budde, delivered his message. It was the same message Jesus brought to Nazareth two thousand years earlier — and people hated it as much today as they did then. But instead of an “Israel First” crowd, it was “America First” — because — this is America! With grace and compassion, Budde said as far as God is concerned — WE'RE ALL FIRST. God loves all of us. People can't boo in church, but you could see people booing and jeering with their eyes. They were so mad it looked like steam hissed out of men's shirt collars and the necklines of women's dresses. Steam and fire shot out of their eyes! Budde's Jesus-message was be kind to foreign people, especially those who have lived in this country, raised families, gone to churches, synagogues, mosques, etc., people just like us who pay taxes — but are frightened that they will be deported because they haven't secured their documentation. Jesus said remember, what you do to the least

of these, you do to me, so be kind, be merciful — don't frighten and oppress people but offer them help. She said, "Our God teaches us that we are to be merciful to the stranger for we were all once strangers in this land."

The president and many other powerful government and business people were there and they rejected the appeal to mercy, kindness, love — and many of them rejected it with rage. The president even demanded an apology from Rev. Budde, and from the Episcopal church. As of yet, no apology has been made. No one from the church has apologized for their urgent appeal that all people be treated with kindness, respect, dignity and love. It's sad, but not surprising, that Jesus and his message of God's love and concern for every human being is as unpopular today as it was in Nazareth thousands of years ago.

God gave us our lives and put us here for one reason — to learn to love one another. This is the goal of our spiritual practice — our prayer, our worship, our social service — everything is directed towards learning to love in the short time we've been given to live on this earth. I pray that when we encounter Jesus each day in the face of our fellow human beings, we will not reject, but love them.

Yours, trying in this new year, and begging God's help,  
to practice what I preach,

George

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***Contact Pastor George @***

***Phone: (203) 287-8106 or***

***revonweb@sbcglobal.net***

## **IT'S SOUPERBOWL SUNDAY TIME!!**

Women's Fellowship will be holding their "famous" Souperbowl Bruncheon on Super Bowl Sunday, February 9! Church service will be in our sanctuary with our Bruncheon to follow. Salads and breads will be out 10:45 with soups service at 11 a.m.

A donation of \$5 is suggested for all the soup, salad and bread you can eat! Beverages and desserts included!

The current soup list is:

Corn Chowder

Pasta Fagioli

Italian Wedding

Pea Soup w Ham

Turkey and Bean Chili

Janet M's famous Chicken Elbow

Prime Rib and Vegetable Stew

Potsticker Soup

and there might be more!

Proceeds will go to the Hamden Food Bank and Hamden Senior Center.

If anyone would like to make a soup, bread, or salad, please let me know so we can coordinate all.

We will be voting on proceeds from our Apple Festival at this time. If you have a charity you would like us to consider, please let me know.

The Souperbowl Bruncheon is open to EVERYONE, please invite your family, friends, neighbors, and anybody else to join us! The more tummies we make warm, the better!

Hope to see all your faces!

Much appreciated,  
Debbie Laffin

## **Women's Fellowship**

Women's Fellowship supported the Annual Meeting Cafe Church Brunch on January 19. Thank you to all that helped bake, make and clean up!

Sending out a giant THANK YOU to Jenni and Efren Mojica who volunteered to restart our coffee hours downstairs in Fellowship Hall! Every Sunday we all can enjoy some catching up time, getting to know you time and just relaxing with a hot beverage after service!

Women's Fellowship will be hosting Corned Beef Cafe Church on Sunday, March 16! Come celebrate St. Patrick's Day with us!

Easter Sunday Sunrise Breakfast is BACK! Sunrise is 6:04, breakfast served directly after a beautiful service by Reverend George in Fellowship Hall!

Much appreciated,  
Debbie Laffin

### **Women's Fellowship will be holding our annual tag sale Saturday, April 5, 9am-1pm**

When starting your spring cleaning, please save your items (especially kitchen goods, small appliances, small furniture, toys, puzzles, shoes in good shape, clothes in very good shape, towels, sheets, blankets, purses, tools, glassware, utensils of any sort, and weird stuff) and donate to us. We can store them, just please let me know what you are dropping off so I know what is for tag sale.

Debbie  
203 605 4621

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

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

George and Janet Braen

Bob and Karen Corona

John and Charlotte Sroka

This month we are donating to World Central Kitchen who are mobilized in Southern California right now to support first responders and so many families impacted by the wildfires in the Los Angeles, CA area.

If you would like to make a donation, 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.

This report might look the same each month and we truly thank those that donate. You are making a difference in the lives of people you probably will never meet, and hopefully will never be in their shoes.

Thank you,  
Debbie Laffin

## **Board of Missions and Concerns**

Missions wants to welcome Jenni Mojica and Gary Burkbuckler to the Board of Missions and Concerns.

Missions will continue to support and help where needed.

Thank you,  
Donna

## Trustees

The Trustees are working with the Treasurer to complete payment for the installation of pathway lights.

With the passing of the 2025 budget, the Trustees will work on obtaining proposals for resurfacing and expanding the driveway and parking area near the parish hall.

We will also work on the Easement proposal as discussed at the annual meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
John Donohue



## Deacons

I would like to express my gratitude to all the Deacons for their time and commitment to our wonderful church community.

We are noticing an increase in in-person church attendance, and we pray that this spirit of community continues to grow throughout the year.

The Deacons are dedicated to supporting members of the congregation who are in need. Please don't hesitate to reach out; we are here to help.

Respectfully yours ,  
Kitty Donohue

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.

You can donate online by scanning this QR code.

Donations are accepted through a secure site by Vanco.





## ***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.”