



Under the Dome

**Dunbar United Church of Christ
767 Benham St, Hamden, CT 06514**

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An Open & Affirming Congregation

Weekly Services

Sunday Mornings @ 10:00 A.M.

Saturday Evenings @ 5:00 P.M.

February 2026

Pastor's Report, February 2026

A number of years ago our church purchased a banner (From United Church of Christ Resources) and we hung it on the Benham Street side of the Parish House. At least since the time of Covid — maybe before. But, it's been years, so many that its bright rainbow colors have faded some. The banner is a list of ten "statements" of what it means to be the church. Call them Commandments. The Ten Commandments of the United Church of Christ — which we purchased — for I forget how much but that banner is still being sold and now the price is 129.00. It's four feet by eight feet. And one of our members — I think Tom Parlapiano — framed it in attractive PVC tubing and hung it on the side of the building. The wind blew it down once but Tom re-hung it — so it's still there on the side of our Parish House broadcasting to the world what we believe and value.

Without reading ahead, or driving by and looking, can you recall any of these ten statements are? We've all probably driven by it hundreds of times. Six years is 2190 days — so, we may have passed it a thousand times or more. What is one of them?

Here they are:

BE THE CHURCH

Protect the environment.

Care for the poor.

Forgive often.

Reject racism.

Fight for the powerless.

Share earthly and spiritual resources.

Embrace diversity.

Love God.

Enjoy this life.

We could have purchased this in the black and white version, but we chose the rainbow. One of the statements says embrace diversity and the multi-color banner is a symbol of that, a symbol of Christ's affirmation and love for everyone, every race, sexual orientation, culture, religion — everyone.

I believe that Jesus' life reflected all of these. Of course he embraced diversity — that's why he made Galilee his headquarters. Galilee was the melting-pot of Israel — Hittites/Phrygians/Lydians (present day "Turks"), Greeks, Syrians, Samaritans, Asians, Arabs, Persians, etc., lived there. Jesus put himself in the middle of all the races and loved them and gave his one teaching and command to everyone: love one another.

So we follow Jesus. Jesus who said: "Love God and your neighbor as yourself." Our goal and prayer is to reflect his love in our thoughts and words and actions. If we are human, there will be a million times a day when we don't do this. But when we catch ourselves not loving, not following Jesus, we try again, repent, get back on the spiritual path, always being patient and kind to ourselves, as we are to each other. Repeated failure and persistent trying-again is part of the spiritual life -- we can't change that. One of my goals for this year is to pay more attention to that beautiful banner on the side of our Parish House, and memorize these statements, and with God's help, live them as Jesus did.

Grateful for you, with love,
George

Contact Pastor George @

Phone: (203) 287-8106 or

revonweb@sbcglobal.net

Souperbowl Luncheon February 8th

Our "Famous" Souperbowl Luncheon will be held on February 8th! Directly after our church service upstairs, we will be serving our "famous" soups in Fellowship Hall! Salads will be out at 10:45 with soups served at 11:00. We will also be voting on the proceeds from our successful Apple Festival. Please let me know if you have a charity in mind you would like us to consider.

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

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

If anyone would like to make a soup, bread or dessert, please let me know so we can coordinate. We already have nine soups on our list! We will also package up left over soup into 32oz freezable containers for only \$2 each!

Hope to see you all there!

Much appreciated,
Debbie Laffin

Women's Fellowship future dates:

St. Patrick's Day Cafe Church on March 15

Easter Sunrise Breakfast on Easter Sunday, April 5.

H.O.P.E.

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

John and Charlotte Sroka
John and Lois Kasarauskas
Heather Sibley
Barbara Gengarely
George and Janet Braen
Bob and Karen Corona

This month we'll be donating to Haven's Harvest located in Hamden. Haven's Harvest focuses on perishable and prepared foods that only have a few days left. These donations from grocery stores, restaurants, caterers and universities are collected by volunteers and matched with daycare centers, subsidized housing, health care clinics, schools, food pantries, sober homes, seniors and more. Funds are needed for packaging, refrigeration, food-sharing supplies and more.

If you would like to make a donation with HOPE in the memo.

Thank you for supporting Helping Other People Eat,
Debbie Laffin



Trustees

The Trustees continue to meet monthly to review finances. To date, expenditures are within budgeted levels with the exception of unexpected costs for snow removal. We have adjusted the proposed 2026 budget to include funding to support snow clearing. We look forward to the annual meeting with the hope that we can secure approval of the proposed budget for 2026 and recruiting some new trustees.

Respectfully submitted,
John Donohue

Deacons

Ash Wednesday is on February 18, 2026, marking the start of the Lenten season. In mid-March, the choir will start rehearsing for Easter. We invite community members to join the choir; no previous experience is necessary. Rehearsal dates and times will be announced in the weekly bulletin in March.

The Deacons continue to support congregation members in need.

Please feel free to contact us— we're here to help.

Respectfully, Kitty Donohue



Board of Missions and Concerns

Hi Everyone,

As always Missions in the coming year will continue our support of individuals and local, national and international organizations. Please reach out when you know of a need .

Take care and again we are wishing everyone a safe and healthy new year.

Donna and the Missions Committee



IT'S TAG SALE TIME!

Our Spring Tag Sale will be held on Saturday, April 11th from 9am-12noon. When spring cleaning, please consider saving those items in really good condition for our sale. Clothing, sheets, towels in great shape (no holes or stains), books in good condition, puzzles, toys, sporting goods, tools, kitchenware, working appliances, pots and pans, dishes, glassware, weird stuff, etc. are needed.

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

Other Women's Fellowship dates are:

St. Patrick's Day Cafe Church on March 15

Easter Sunrise Breakfast on Easter Sunday, April 5.

Any questions, please call.

Debbie Laffin

203 281-3241

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.”