



# Under the Dome

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

**Phone : (203) 288-2342**

**Email: [office.dunbar@gmail.com](mailto:office.dunbar@gmail.com)**

**[www.dunbarchurch.com](http://www.dunbarchurch.com)**

***An Open & Affirming Congregation***

**Weekly Services**

**Sunday Mornings @ 10:00 A.M.**

**Saturday Evenings @ 5:00 P.M.**

# June 2024

## Pastor's Report, June 2024

Summer begins with the solstice on Thursday, June 20, 2024, marking the astronomical first day of summer in the Northern Hemisphere. It's the longest period of daylight we will have all year, and the shortest night. We'll have a few more weeks until we get there. But already we've had days like summer, and even though it's only May 23 and five P.M., my windows are open, it's sunny and humid outside and I brought a fan down from the attic and it's blowing on me now. It feels like summer. Annie and Janet say that as far as school is concerned, it's over. Students will have about two more weeks, but nobody's doing any work. I just bought a bag of humus and bag of cow manure to put in my sunflower garden because the crop of sunflowers has been disappointing the past few years and after thinking about it (I'm not really a gardener) I realized that I've never put anything back into that soil. It's probably depleted — maybe the nutrients were used up in previous crops and doesn't soil need to be replenished? I watched something on public TV about the first settlers, from England, into Virginia in the 17th century and they grew tobacco because it made them rich — but the tobacco ruined the soil — it sucked the nutrients out of it so that after a few seasons, nothing grew in the soil. Maybe watching that show gave me the idea that the soil in my sunflower plot is dead and played-out, a small bit of wasteland in a backyard that's otherwise lush and alive. I became concerned when I saw that even weeds won't grow in my sunflower garden. So I bought cow manure and humus and will mix this with the soil and will let you know what happens, and if poor soil was the reason my sunflowers had been looking sick.

And talking about replenishing the soil, the most important request ever made to Jesus was in the Gospel of Luke when a disciple said: "Lord, teach us to pray." (Luke 11:1). That only happens in Luke. In Matthew Jesus talks about prayer and then

offers the “Our Father” a way to pray. But in Luke, Jesus was praying — “in a certain place” — and when he finished, a disciple asked him to teach the way to pray and Jesus said: “When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial.”

It’s a little different from the prayer we say every Sunday in church, which is the Gospel of Matthew version. Luke omits (or Matthew adds) the verse “Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” But in both versions of the Lord’s Prayer, forgiveness is key to living “on earth as it is in heaven.” Millions of Christians have forgotten this as they, in America, follow a man who proclaims retribution and revenge. (Is it possible to forgive and seek revenge at the same time?)

And, talking about revenge — people are getting angrier. Listen to this statistic about road rage (reported in The Trace). “The number of people shot each year in road rage incidents spiked more than 400 percent over the past decade, from 92 in 2014 to 481 in 2023.” We’re getting angrier and angrier. You know why? Our soil is bad. Spiritually, our soil is depleted. But it’s summer, a good time to prepare the garden of our mind by turning off the angry talk radio, the cries for retribution, the negative political ads — and think more of Jesus. He said do good — not seek revenge but do good — to someone who hurts you. He said love your enemies — and God and your neighbor as yourself. Good soil. Plant something in that — plant a life in that.

Yours, with love, in the  
summer breeze,

George

---

*Contact Pastor George @*

*Phone: (203) 287 -8106 or*

*revonweb@sbcglobal.net*

It's not too early to think about the APPLE FESTIVAL! Please start saving your better than goodwill items, start making those bazaar items, think about those jams and jellies, try new recipes for the bake table, contribute to the raffle table, and think about where you would like to volunteer that day!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 9-1!

Save that date!

Pie making starts Wednesday, September 11, 9:30 sharp!

Hope to see you there!

## **Christian Education**

CE has enjoyed classes this school year. The children were excited to learn and that makes teaching fun. We hope everyone enjoys a wonderful summer and we look forward to another church school year starting in September.

Janet Manukas

## **Deacons**

Spring greetings from your Deacons,

It was so wonderful to see a new generation of the Hurd family baptized in our church. We welcome Alice Elizabeth Sheehan into of church family.

Please remember there are those that are alone. If there is anyone that you are concerned for, or you think would like a visit please let us know. Also if there are any suggestions regarding the service, please contact any of the Deacons.

Rides are available to service to those who need them.

Kitty Donohue 203 887 9717

Respectfully yours,  
The Board of Deacons

## **Board of Missions and Concerns**

Hi Everyone,

This is Mental Health Awareness month so we are donating to NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Health) and the Trevor Project (They provide crisis support and services for LGBTQ+ young people). This is also honor our Veterans month and we will be donating to House of HeroesCT (They do home repairs for military and public safety veterans). We are happy to continue to support these organizations.

As always ,if you know of a need please let us know.

Wishing you all a healthy, happy, and safe summer.

Take care,

Donna and the Missions Committee

## **Video Ministry Committee**

The Video Ministry Committee is looking for additional volunteers to help with the streaming and recording of Sunday services (and occasional special services).

Currently, there are only three active members, which makes it difficult when someone is sick or on vacation.

It would be unfortunate if we were unable to stream a Sunday service because there is no one available to run the equipment.

Streaming the service is not difficult and the current members will help you get up to speed.

Please consider volunteering for this important part of our outreach.

Sincerely,

Joe Braen

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

H.O.P.E. would like to thank those that have donated this past month and helped us keep feeding others:

George and Janet Braen

John and Lois Kasarauskas

Heather Sibley

Nancy Gallo in memory of our wonderful Ginny Granquist

Rev. George and Janet Manukas

Steve and Sandy Hurd, in loving memory of their parents

This month we will be donating to UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency in honor of World Refugee Day on June 20. UNHCR supplies food to many countries in conflict - Ukraine, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Yemen, Ethiopia, Sudan, Syria, Venezuela and more.

I have been reporting the same thank you speech every month, but hope you know that everyone who has contributed is really making a difference both close to home, sometimes nationally and sometimes internationally. Dunbar UCC may be small, but we are strong and we make a difference in so many ways!

Please help us keep up Helping Other People Eat.

Thank you,

Debbie Laffin

Saturday, June 1 is a Celebration of Life Service for Ann Watjen at 10a.m. at the church sanctuary, then she will be interred in the Columbarium with her husband, Bob.

Directly after, Women's Fellowship will sponsor a luncheon.

All are welcome.

Ann and her family were a very special part of the church for decades. Hope to see you to celebrate this wonderful member!

## Women's Fellowship

After another successful tag sale, which made \$ 750 in three hours (again thanks to all those that helped in any way!), we were able to donate to three deserving charities:

Interfaith Volunteer Care Givers of Greater New Haven whose programs include Mae's Closet

Diapers for Dignity

Connecticut Garden Collaborative

Transportation Plus

IVCG Food Force

and more.

Hamden Garden of Healing (Eli Whitney Museum location) is just starting. It is providing a place of peace, healing and hope for those that have lost a loved one to some form of homicide. Such a difficult experience to go through will be eased just a bit with this safe spot. This program also will raise awareness and help the families of those that were lost so tragically, so suddenly and way too soon.

Michelle's House, Sickle Cell Disease Association of America, Connecticut is an organization that provides families with critical education and access to support services after diagnosis. It strives to enhance all aspects of the quality of life, including finding a cure.

Debbie Laffin



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.”