



Under the Dome

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

Phone : (203) 288-2342

Email: office.dunbar@gmail.com

www.dunbarchurch.com

An Open & Affirming Congregation

Weekly Services

Sunday Mornings @ 10:00 A.M.

Saturday Evenings @ 5:00 P.M.

March 2026

Pastor's Report, March 2026

Last month I wrote about the United Church of Christ banner that is hung on the side the Parish House. If you noticed — it's not there now! Probably it came down because of work being done on the Parish House, and hopefully it will go back up. I'll repeat the nine items of that banner here — again — because these are what Jesus taught or practiced. I don't like the idea of schools forced by law to post the Ten Commandments in classrooms. Why make students of other faiths read laws from a religion not their own? Unless other religions are given equal time and space. People act like the United States is a Christian nation. Only those who haven't read the Gospels can claim that.

What I like about the United Church of Christ "commands" on our banner is that they reflect the values of ALL the great religions. Put these in a classroom and who would object? I might make one change — take the command that says "Love God" and remove the word "God" — and just have the word "Love." Some religions, like Buddhism, don't talk about God — but all the great ones teach love of creation and humankind. In our Bible — we are taught (1 John 4:8) that "God is love."

Here are the commands on our Banner: Protect the Environment, Care for the poor, Forgive often, Reject racism, Fight for the powerless, Share earthly and spiritual resources (we could shorten that to just "share"), Embrace diversity, Love, and finally, Enjoy this life. Put that in classrooms.

Talking about schools, I am reading more articles lately about people who want to go back to having segregated schools — schools that are all white, all black, all Christian, all boys, all girls — just separate everybody into their own identity camps. There is a big push to stop diversity, and inclusion, and equity. A congresswoman from New Hampshire, Rep. Kristin Noble, who

chairs a House education committee, is proposing that schools be segregated by political affiliation. She said, “Democrats will be delighted to have their own schools, with libraries full of porn, biological males in girls’ sports and bathrooms, and as much DEI (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion) curriculum as their hearts desire.”

As lovely as that may be, our lives are more interesting and rich when we mix with each other. When we mix with other cultures and races and orientations and colors, we all benefit. Jesus is our example for this. He could have settled in any part of Israel, but he chose the northern part, Galilee, as his home base. To the north was Syria/Phoenicia. To the southeast was the Ten Cities (Decapolis), and to the west were the Mediterranean ports of Tyre and Ptolemais. Southwest was Samaria. Jesus walked to all these places. God chose, when he came to earth as a human being, to live in one of the most diverse cultural locations on earth, with a mix of languages, cultures, and races. This wasn’t an accident. God loves EVERYONE and wants us to INTEGRATE so we can love everyone too! Like Jesus did. Jesus loved the Canaanite woman, the Roman officer, the Jewish Pharisee and especially, the outcasts who he was especially close to — the sick, the poor, the Roman-employed, native-born tax collectors, prostitutes, widows, fishermen.

Why are there Christians who don’t want diversity? Have they read the gospels? Jesus said **LOVING OUR NEIGHBOR IS AS IMPORTANT AS LOVING GOD**. We are not a Christian nation and never have been — but maybe we could be if more Christians would get to know -- I mean actually know -- Jesus.

We could do this for Lent — we can spend the next few weeks getting to know Jesus better. And please -- not from TV evangelists, not from radio personalities — or God forbid —

politicians. And I'm embarrassed and ashamed to say, but some of the most serious damage — in the name of religion — that has been inflicted upon people and the earth has been caused by — ministers, people like (but I pray not) me! — preachers of the Gospel!

The best way to know Jesus is to meet him directly in the pages of the Gospels. Get to know him again — or maybe for the first time. Think about him and his kindness toward others, his forgiveness of every sin, and his love for every person. For Lent pray to know Jesus better.

Yours, loving you and standing
in the need of prayer,
George

*Contact Pastor George @
Phone: (203) 287-8106 or
revonweb@sbcglobal.net*

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.

Easter Sunrise Service

April 5, 2026

6:30am

Easter Sunrise Breakfast directly after Easter Sunrise Service on Sunday, April 5! Come join us for a hearty breakfast with eggs, pancakes, sausage and more as we start our celebration for Easter!

CORNED BEEF CAFE CHURCH IS BEING HELD ON SUNDAY, MARCH 15!

Come join us for our March cafe church which will be held in Fellowship Hall. Food service starts at 9:45 and includes breakfast items as well as corned beef/St. Patrick's Day fare! Hope we're LUCKY enough to see you there!

IT'S TAG SALE TIME!

Women's Fellowship will be holding their annual Tag Sale on Saturday, April 11th, 9am-12noon.

While spring cleaning, please consider saving those items in good condition for our 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 hands to help sort, price and pack up as well. Any questions, please call.

Debbie Laffin
203 281-3241



Trustees

The Trustees have a new budget that was approved at the annual meeting. We continue to monitor expenses and income, which are within anticipated levels. The heavy snowfall has resulted in increased spending for snow removal, but the new budget contained expanded resources for this purpose.

We will meet in early March to select a new chair and set the agenda for capital and related activities in 2026.

Respectfully submitted,
John Donohue

H.O.P.E.

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

Barbara Gengarelly

Heather Sibley

George and Janet Braen

Bob and Karen Corona

John and Charlotte Sroka

Janet Sola

This month we will be donating to Dinner for a Dollar which supplies home cooked meals for a suggested \$1 donation to support food insecure residents.

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

Board of Missions and Concerns

Hi Everyone,

Missions has made donations to NIN (Neighbors In Need) and OGHS (One Great Hour of Sharing). These are Church charities.

During this time we donate to the Heart Association and Wallingford Animal Control (now in honor of Phyllis Gibbs).

Two organizations that Jennifer J. suggested were the Clelian Center located at Sacred Heart in Hamden (it is a medical model adult day care center and creates an atmosphere of Joy, Faith and Love), and the Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation, Inc. (they supply German Shepherd guide dogs with people who are blind).

Lastly we bought clothes for the homeless for Columbus House.

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

Take care,

Donna and the Missions Committee

Deacons

The Deacons have prepared for Lent, which began on February 18. Our church community hosted a successful music-inspired Ash Wednesday service with participants from various local churches. Lent proceeds through Holy Week, culminating in Easter on Sunday, April 5. The Deacons will share updates about Tenebrae and Easter plans in the March weekly bulletin.

We continue to support members of the congregation in need. Please don't hesitate to contact us — we are here to help.

Respectfully,

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.

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.”