

# The Pulpit Rock

*The Nahant Village Church, 27 Cliff Street, PO Box 77, Nahant, MA 01908*  
*An open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ*  
*where everyone is welcome*

## March 2021 Scripture Reading

### March 7

Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19  
1 Corinthians 1:18-25

**Theme: Fed for God's mission**

### March 14

Number 21:4-9; Psalm 107:1-3,  
17-22; Ephesians 2:1-10  
John 3:14-21

**Theme: From poison to power**

### March 21

Jeremiah 31:31-34  
Psalm 51:1-12  
Hebrews 5:5-10  
John 12:20-33

**Theme: New hearts with a new covenant**

### March 28

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29;  
Mark 11:1-11

**Theme: Prophecy fulfilled with surprise**

## Calendar

**March 13** - Nahant Village Voices  
3 - 5 pm

**March 28** - Palm Sunday

**April 1** Maundy Thursday on  
You-Tube at 7 pm

**April 4** Sunrise Easter Service  
10:30 Easter Service followed  
by Communion

### **Worship Service**

Sundays @ 10:30 am

### **Bible Study**

Tuesdays @ 10 am

### **Genesis Supper Club**

Fridays @ 5 pm

All Meetings Via Zoom

See last page for Zoom links



## A Message from Rev. Jeff MacDonald

Dear NVC members & friends,

Lent has arrived and will be with us through April 3. So what will it mean this year for us to repent and believe the good news?

This is a perfect season for processing what NVC has been through. From pastoral transitions to suspension of in-person services, it's been a lot. We might need some time to ponder this measure of change. That's exactly what Lent gives us: a long time to reflect, to be honest with ourselves, to confront what's been hard yet necessary to think about... even to let go of stumbling blocks that might stand in our way. Clinging to safety blankets can sometimes be a hindrance, such as when it's time to swim.

I encourage you in this Lent to do some deep reflecting while also trusting deeply in the merciful ways of God. If something has disrupted your routines of worship, prayer, Bible reading, Christian fellowship or service to the community, ask how you might restore those habits by using new forms or methods that can work even in a pandemic. Be creative, try experimenting, don't fret a setback or two. And all the while, ponder which emotional attachments might be getting in the way of what's most important to your life as a

Christian. Then take a first step to realign.

The journey to the Cross and beyond involves following a Savior who wants our whole hearts, not just a portion. "Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me," Jesus tells the disciples in Matthew 10:38. He also assures them that the kingdom is already at hand (Mark 1:15). May this special Lent be marked for us by a special measure of courage and grace.

Blessings,

Rev. Jeff MacDonald

Interim minister and consultant

**Easter at NVC** In addition to the sunrise Easter service we will have a joyous online Easter service on April 4 with opportunities for fellowship in a safe manner. You can watch it on your own or together on Zoom at 10:30. Then come down to NVC around 11:30 to receive Communion and share Easter greetings outdoors in a social distanced format. More details to come. - Rev. Jeff



### **BIBLE STUDY**

**Tuesdays at 10 am** via Zoom.

All are welcome! No preparation is needed except having a Bible close at hand. We read together and discuss as we go. No prior experience with the Bible is necessary. And, no requirement to attend every week. (see last page for Zoom link information)



## RECEIVING COMMUNION

Beginning on March 7, 2021 the Nahant Village Church will be administering Communion, in person, after the prerecorded worship service. During the prerecorded worship, the elements will be consecrated with one or more deacons present in the chapel. As people view the worship on Sunday, they will be taken thru the preparatory steps such as confession and assurance of forgiveness. People may come to the Nahant Village Church, between 11:15–12:00 noon, for a drive-thru receiving of Communion. Deacons hand the prepackaged Communion set to each person in the car. Communicants then ingest the elements on the spot and return the empty containers to a hand-held receptacle that the Deacon will make available.

We will prepare collectively to receive the elements. Just like when we do Communion at church, no one is permitted to take the elements home and ingest later; we all receive simultaneously. Everyone is served by someone else, which is an important symbol of our servanthood as Christ's followers. And finally, the elements are handled with reverence.

Also, for those who are not comfortable coming to the church, Communion can be brought to their homes. I think the recipient should come to the door to receive. If that is too much of a close encounter for your safety, then they should abstain from Communion until after the pandemic, which is honorable & fine to do. To make arrangements for Communion to be delivered to you, please call Jen McCarthy at 781-31-7309 or email [edwarthy@hotmail.com](mailto:edwarthy@hotmail.com).

For people who choose to come to the church to receive Communion we must follow COVID guidelines. Everyone will stay in their car. All people in the car, must wear a mask when the Deacon approaches the car. You will be passed a prepackaged Communion packet. You will wait to take your mask off until the Deacon is safely away from your car, at which time, you can take off your mask and consume the elements. Once everyone has finished with the elements, we ask that everyone in the car put their mask back on, and a Deacon will come back to the car to collect the wrapping and juice cups.

We are excited to be able to see you and offer you Communion in-person on the first Sunday of each month.

## PARTICIPATE IN WORSHIP

Rev Jeff is seeking volunteers to read scripture and participate in the weekly services. We meet in the chapel on Wednesdays at 4 pm to film the service. If you are interested in participating, please contact Jen McCarthy at 781-316-7309 or email [edwarthy@hotmail.com](mailto:edwarthy@hotmail.com)

## WATCH THE FILMING OF WORSHIP

On Wednesdays at 4 pm, Rev Jeff, Jen McCarthy, Chris Stevens and Peter Freisinger have been meeting in the chapel to film the weekly worship video. It has felt so good to be back at the church and participate in worship, even though it is a little different. We would like to offer this opportunity to others. If you would like to come Wednesdays at 4 pm to sit in the pews and watch us tape a worship service, you are more than welcome to join us. You will need to preregister, as at this time, we will only be allowing ten people into the chapel during the taping. People who attend will be signed in. They must also keep their masks on at all times. At the end of taping, people will be asked to leave the chapel and the church. To sign up to attend a worship service please contact Jen McCarthy at 781-316-7309 or email [edwarthy@hotmail.com](mailto:edwarthy@hotmail.com)

## HOLY WEEK

### PALM SUNDAY

#### *Receiving the Palms and car parade*

Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup> is Palm Sunday. To celebrate, we would like to invite you to come to Nahant Village Church at 9:30 am. to receive your Palms. We will then form a car processional and travel around Nahant waving our Palms out the car windows. The cars will leave the Nahant Village Church at 9:45 am. We will travel down Willow Road, Valley Road, Spring Road to Nahant Road and past St. Thomas Aquinas. At that time anyone in the processional will be able to return home and hopefully log onto Zoom to watch the worship video.



### MAUNDY THURSDAY

A Zoom gathering will meet at 7 pm to watch **Maundy Thursday Service** on YouTube. Details are forthcoming.

### SUNRISE EASTER SERVICE

Our traditional Easter sunrise service will be led by Rev. Teri Motley. COVID-19 protocols will be strictly followed. Stay tuned for more details.



**\* See notices: Please send us your Easter photos**

## COMPASSIONATE CARE GROUP (CCG)



Reaching out with cards and letters is an important way of staying in touch with friends and members of our Church family. We welcome the participation of anyone in this endeavor. We'd love to expand our compassionate circle.

Another way you can help is by donating any spare greeting cards that you may have that you don't need. Looking for birthday, thinking of you, sympathy, get well, or blank cards. Please call me if you would like to contribute. I can pick them up at your house (outside) or you could drop them off at my house, 5 Greystone Road on the front porch. Give Chris Alexander a call or get in touch with her via e-mail for more specifics (see last page for contact information).

Chris Alexander, Coordinator, CCG

## THE GENESIS SUPPER CLUB

(GSC) is celebrating its one-year anniversary! The group meets on Friday nights from 5:00 to 6:30 pm with 5 to 12 people attending each week. The group originally began as a Lenten Supper Club sharing a vegetarian meal during this austere season of reflection, prayer and self examination. When the pandemic began last year during Lent, the group immediately began meeting on zoom for prayer and discussion. When Easter came, the group decided to continue meeting as GSC and has grown into a rich community experience of love, support and prayer. Each week there is a brief social time followed by opening prayer and Bible reading and discussion of a topic related to plants or herbs in the Bible.

During this season of Lent, we are reading the book of Daniel cover to cover and deeply examining the impact of a vegetarian diet on the human body and spirit. Daniel was one of the greatest Prophets in the old testament and ate a vegetarian diet. We invite anyone to come and join us as we explore how a plant-based diet can impact health, wellness and spirituality. Being a vegetarian is not required. Curiosity and a willingness to engage in a lively and loving community are welcomed!

## NAHANT VILLAGE VOICES

The Nahant Village Church is proud of our new offering, Nahant Village Voices. Once a month, this group meets to share poetry in an "open mike"-style event on Zoom. All are welcome to join; people have shared haikus,

limericks, original and favorite poetry and songs. This latest lay initiative in the church is led by Samantha Jane.

Our first event in January 2021 honoring Polly Bradley was a huge success. The Zoom gallery was full of smiling faces as over 30 people came together to share poems from Polly's two published works, "Leeward Windward" and "Seaward Skyward". It was so moving to see family and friends, old and new coming together to celebrate the life and creativity of such a beloved neighbor, friend and church member, as each participant shared the poems they had chosen from Polly's collection. Amy Dow's performance of "Song for Calantha" and the Village Ringers' "Yes for Nahant" were just a few of the highlights. It was encouraging to see so many people reaching out to help loved ones access the event either on their computers, tablets, or phones.

Our theme for February was Love, and a smaller but still robust group gathered to explore the concept in what was a deeply spiritual event. Monthly themes are intended to be a suggestion or a point of inspiration for finding or writing poetry to share. It was a lovely time of connection and sharing so many different expressions of love with each other. Nahant Village Voices in our second month brought together souls and voices from Nahant and beyond, including local poets and people who are new to Nahant Village Church. Margaret Alexander helped to frame the space for our February event, and is the Zoom facilitator for Nahant Village Voices.

Nahant Village Voices meets on the second Saturday of each month from 3 to 5 pm on Zoom. All are welcome to join by computer or by phone. Information to get into the meeting can be found on the church Web

page at [www.NahantVillageChurch.org](http://www.NahantVillageChurch.org) and questions can be emailed to [NahantVillageVoices@angelic.com](mailto:NahantVillageVoices@angelic.com). In March, our theme will be "Ruach", or the wind of the Holy Spirit. We look forward to hearing how the winds of the Holy Spirit inspire people to share on Saturday, March 13 at 3 pm. Our theme for April 10 will be "Resurrection" and will be led by Maureen Edison. We welcome you to find or write a poem and join us!





# MISSIONS

## LET LOVE FLOW

### GIVE TO ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

*"Nobody hungry, nobody thirsty, shade from the sun,  
shelter from the wind.*

*For the Compassionate One guides them,  
takes them to the best springs."*

Isaiah 49:10

The COVID-19 pandemic, wildfires, earthquakes, hurricanes and flooding have ravaged communities in the United States and worldwide, leaving families and communities in desperate need of assistance. Some of these disasters may have occurred in your hometown, or in nearby communities or to friends and neighbors in countries thousands of miles away across the globe.

In March of each year, our Church participates in a United Church of Christ wide collection called "One Great hour of Sharing." We hope to continue that tradition this year. When you share your gifts, you "Let Love Flow" and your generosity ensures that even in the midst of uncertainty, the transforming power of God's love continues to change lives here and around the world, as together we build a just world for all.

Donations may be made by check (please put One Great Hour of Sharing in the memo line) or on our website: [nahantvillagechurch.org](http://nahantvillagechurch.org). Checks should be made payable to Nahant Village Church and sent to PO Box 77, Nahant, MA 01908.

Thank you in advance for your participation in this worthy campaign and for your generosity!

## CELEBRATIONS AND GOODBYES

### Happy birthday wishes

March 1: Rev. Patricia Long

March 3: Christine Stevens

March 4: Carol Crawford

March 17: Marrit Hastings

March 21: Rev. Jeff MacDonald

March 26: Lynne Spencer

### Condolences

Our condolences to Jean Sigourney and her family on the passing of her husband Andre.

## NOTES FROM THE CONGREGATION

How fortunate the NVC is to have the Leadership Team to steer our ship and bring it safely through this challenge.

Blessings on all – especially the pilots guiding our ship!

With gratitude, appreciation and so much admiration,

**Calantha Sears**

### **On starting new initiatives at our Church:**

"You come up with a creative idea, float it on the pond and it gets picked up with a receptive and enthusiastic response.

It is exciting to see things come to life."

**Samantha Jane,**

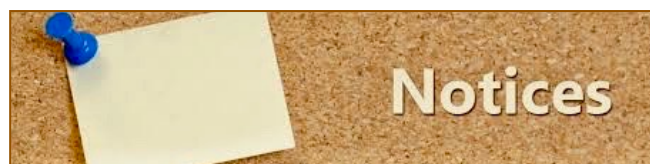
Leader of the Genesis Supper Club and  
Nahant Village Voices

### **About one of Rev. Jeff's sermons:**

"I loved the real-life examples of people being called to lay down their nets in service of God, calling us to action where our abilities are needed, even though we might not have expected that direction.

I also liked all of the questions and metaphors about seeing the words of the Gospel in our own language and more on which nets we might be clinging to or letting go of in our own lives and at NVC.

**Maria Welsh**



## **DAILY DEVOTIONALS**

The Church has limited copies of two daily devotionals- **The Upper Room** (March and April) and **Our Daily Bread** (March, April, May). Call the Church Office to receive a copy of one or both. They will be distributed on a first come first serve basis.

### **\*SEND US YOUR EASTER PHOTOS**

As we prepare our online Easter worship service, we'd love to include your photos from Easter's past. Do you have shots of your family in Easter outfits? How about shots taken at NVC during worship or coffee hour? Other Easter festivities? If so, please attach digital files and send an email with "Easter Photos" in the subject line to [secretary@nahantvillagechurch.org](mailto:secretary@nahantvillagechurch.org).

**Submission deadline is March 15**



**NAHANT VILLAGE CHURCH**  
**27 Cliff Street, PO Box 77, Nahant, MA**

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Call the Church at 781-581-1202, anyone on the Leadership Team, or Rev. Jeff for any urgent pastoral care or other needs. Phone messages at the Church are checked daily and forwarded to the appropriate individual on our Team.

**Church** – 781-581-1202

**Interim Minister**

**Rev. G. Jeffrey MacDonald**  
[revjeffnvc at gmail dot com](mailto:revjeffnvc@gmail.com) or 978-270-0114

**Leadership Team**

**Jen McCarthy** (Chair) - [edwarthy@hotmail.com](mailto:edwarthy@hotmail.com)  
or 781-316-7309)  
also Board of Deacons Chair

**Nancy Cantelmo** - [nlc31@comcast.net](mailto:nlc31@comcast.net)  
or 781-599-3977 or 617-794-6477)  
Memorials/Music Committee Chair

**Bill Crawford** - [crawfordwm@verizon.net](mailto:crawfordwm@verizon.net)  
or 781-581-0411)  
Board of Trustee Chair

**Marrit Hastings** ([calhast@hotmail.com](mailto:calhast@hotmail.com)  
or 781-581-5691)  
Treasurer/ Pulpit Rock

**Maria Welsh** ([mariawelsh@ymail.com](mailto:mariawelsh@ymail.com)  
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**Buildings and Grounds**

**Cal Hastings** - [calhast@hotmail.com](mailto:calhast@hotmail.com)  
or 781-581-5691)

**Andy Puleo** - [andynahant@aol.com](mailto:andynahant@aol.com)  
or 617-293-3913)

**Compassionate Care**

**Christine Alexander** - [chris2954@gmail.com](mailto:chris2954@gmail.com)  
or 781-864-5367

*You are invited*

All gatherings are held on Zoom  
For call in: Dial-in +1 929 205 6099

**Sunday Worship Service**

Sundays @ 10:30 am

Click below to join on Zoom

**[NVCworship](#)**

Meeting ID: 874 0946 3319

Passcode: 01908

**Bible Study**

Tuesdays @ 10:00 am

Click below to join on Zoom

**[NVCBible](#)**

Meeting ID: 838 6095 4980

Passcode: 01908

**Genesis Supper Club**

Fridays @ 5:00-6:30 pm

Click below to join on Zoom

**[GenesisSupperClub](#)**

Meeting ID: 881 0920 8580

Passcode: 01908

**Nahant Village Voices**

Saturday, February 13 @ 3:00 pm

Click below to join on Zoom

**[NahantVV](#)**

Meeting ID: 810 8610 6763

Passcode: NVV

Passcode: 697582 (phone)

We would *Love* for you join us!