



# The Pulpit Rock

The Nahant Village Church ~ 27 Cliff Street, Nahant, MA 01908  
where everybody belongs

## JULY 2018

**1st 6th Sunday after Pentecost**  
10:30 am *Worship/Communion*



**8th 7th Sunday after Pentecost**  
10:30 am *Worship Service*  
1:00 pm *My Brother's Table*

10th *Transition Team Mtg. 3:00 pm*  
*NVC Trustees Mtg 7:00 pm*

12th *Bible Study Retreat 9:00 am*

13th *Community Breakfast*

**15th 8th Sunday after Pentecost**  
10:30 am *Worship Service*

17th *Transition Team Mtg. 3:00 pm*

**22th 9th Sunday after Pentecost**  
10:30 am *Worship Service*

24th *Transition Team Mtg. 3:00 pm*

**29th 10th Sunday after Pentecost**  
10:30 am *Worship Service*

31st *Transition Team Mtg. 3:00 pm*

~~~~~

## AUGUST 2018

3rd *Community Breakfast*

**5th 11th Sunday after Pentecost**  
10:30 am *Worship/Communion*

7th *Transition Team Mtg. 3:00 pm*  
*NVC Trustees Mtg 7:00 pm*

9th *Worship at Jesmond*

**12th 12th Sunday after Pentecost**  
10:30 am *Worship Service*

14th *Transition Team Mtg. 3:00 pm*

**19th 13th Sunday after Pentecost**  
10:30 am *Worship Service*

21st *Transition Team Mtg 3:00 pm*

**26th 14th Sunday after Pentecost**  
10:30 am *Worship Service*

28th *Transition Team Mtg. 3:00 pm*

### **To Look at Any Thing**

*To look at any thing,  
If you would know that thing,  
You must look at it long:  
To look at this green and say,  
"I have seen spring in these  
Woods," will not do - you must  
Be the thing you see:  
You must be the dark snakes of  
Stems and ferny plumes of leaves,  
You must enter in  
To the small silences between  
The leaves,  
You must take your time  
And touch the very peace  
They issue from.  
~ John Moffitt ~*

God created us with imaginations. We can BE the thing we see. We are creative beings at our core. Each of us is born with talents and interests that yearn for expression.

Time, like talents, belongs to God. When we live our lives aware of God's Time, we learn to trust that whatever happens is in God's Timing.

When our time and talents are focused on glorifying God, our lives flourish. Take the garden as an example: Tended by gardeners with talent and

time, each root, stem, branch, bud, and fruit is an expression of both the creator and time. Water and sun are co-Creators of a thriving garden, and through these gifts, God's Glory is revealed!

This month, as we all celebrate independence, I plan to rededicate my time and talents to glorifying God; please join me. I look forward to hearing the ways that you glorify God with your time and talents too!

Enjoy the summer!

Rev. Laura



In past years, worship for summer months may have changed to an earlier time. This year, summer worship time **will remain at 10:30 a. m.** as during the year.

### **Bible Study Retreat**

Reverend Laura and the Bible Study Sojourners will meet on Thursday, July 12 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for a Bible Study Retreat.

### **Worship Themes for July**



**July 1, 6th Sunday after Pentecost**  
Theme: Seeing with Sacred Eyes  
Scripture: The Emmaus Story,  
Luke 24: 13-25

**July 8, 7th Sunday after Pentecost**  
Theme: Coming Home  
Scripture: Mark 6:1-13

**July 15, 8th Sunday after Pentecost**  
Theme: Walking on Water  
Scripture: Mark 6:45-56

**July 22, 9th Sunday after Pentecost**  
Theme: Be Not Afraid  
Scripture: Various readings  
Rev. Patricia Long

**July 29, 10th Sunday after Pentecost**  
Theme: God's Abundance  
Scripture: John 6:1-21

## A message from your Co-Moderators



July, the second month of Summer, carries important significance for us all.

We contemplate being our unique selves and also part of a greater union.

We celebrate the Fourth of July as Independence Day... Thirteen American colonies declared their independence as a new nation, the United States of America, no longer a part of the British Empire.

There are times when each of us, like the original colonies, might feel disconnected from our larger world or that our action may have no consequence.

The truth is,...our simplest thought or action... the decisions we make, and how we see the world each day can have a profound effect on everything around us.

The Earth, everything on it,...every person, plant, animal, water, trash, soil, and thing on it, is affected by every decision we make.

We are interconnected with all things everywhere.

Let us remember this as we move forward.

Let us make our choices, mindful of our connectedness with our family, our environment, our planet, our church, and our inner selves.

Everything we decide can affect everyone around us. Let us quietly seek, and listen to, the Divine within us as we move forward.

Respectfully yours,

Rich Stevens and Maria Welsh

### **It's not too late to Sign Up for Sunday Summer Solos**

The summer music program of Nahant Village Church begins on July 1 and continues through September 9. We seek anyone who would like to participate with a solo for voice or instrument or both, groups are also welcome. The sign-up sheet is available in the companionway. Speak with Herman Weiss, Organist and Choir Director for more information.

If you would like to put **flowers from your garden** on the church altar for Sunday service during the Summer, please contact the church office or you may contact Lissa Stempel at 339-440-4067 or by e-mail at [lissa88@comcast.net](mailto:lissa88@comcast.net).



## **Nahant Community Breakfast Focus on Medicare**

**Friday, July 13 at 8:00 a.m.**

Due to July 4th, the next breakfast will be held on the 13<sup>th</sup> (not the 6<sup>th</sup>). We are honored to have as our guest speaker Ray Hurd, a senior official at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and a resident of Nahant. Mr. Hurd will provide an overview of CMS and the agency's role in ensuring everyone has access to affordable quality health care. He will cover the basics of Medicare that everyone should know and the four parts (A, B, C, D) that make up the program. Every Medicare beneficiary will be receiving a new Medicare card between now and April 2019 removing the social security number. He will discuss the new card and what to expect, so people are not taken advantage of by scammers trying to get money or personal information by claiming they represent CMS. Because so much money is lost to waste, fraud and abuse, he will talk about ways that we can all help prevent and address it.



Mr. Hurd joined CMS in 2011 as the CMS Boston Regional Deputy Regional Administrator and was appointed to the Deputy Consortium Administrator/Regional Administrative position in 2013. As Deputy Consortium Administrator for Health Plans Operations, he provides oversight and guidance to the 10 CMS regional offices across the country for the administration of Medicare Advantage and Medicare Prescription Drug Plans. As Regional Administrator, he works diligently to strengthen engagement and partnerships with a variety of CMS stakeholders while promoting awareness of all CMS programs through outreach and education. He works in Regions I and II that cover all of New England, as well as New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands.

Mr. Hurd served 20 years in the US Navy. He has a B.A. in Civil Engineering and a MA in Management.

Arrangements for transportation of elders to and from the breakfast may be made by calling the Tiffany Room a few days in advance of the breakfast at 781-581-7557.

*Cal and Marrit Hastings*

Community Breakfast Coordinators



### Transition Team Update

The Transition Team hosted a spirited “third conversation” with the congregation on June 10 to discuss the financial challenges facing our Church and to explore the possibility of hiring a part-time settled minister. This conversation was continued on Sunday, June 24 in which the Transition Team invited further discussion on the topic. What is crystal clear from these two meetings is that nobody wants a part-time minister. Our Church relies on our Minister to do many, many things. The question now before us is: Can NVC **afford** a full-time minister?

Many excellent suggestions were made at both congregational gatherings, particularly as they relate to the need to raise more funds for the Church. These suggestions will be the focus of upcoming conversations by the Transition Team and the NVC Board of Trustees. We will keep you informed of our progress and any new developments. In the meanwhile, please do not hesitate to contact any member of the Transition Team or Board of Trustees if you have additional suggestions or wish to have a private conversation on these matters.

Our heartfelt thanks to all who participated in and contributed to these deliberations. Please keep the future of our Church in your prayers, as well as the Transition Team and Board of Trustees as they move forward with your input.

### Volunteer Opportunities at My Brother's Table



Members of NVC will be serving at My Brother's Table on Sunday July 8, from 1:00. to 4:30 p.m. If you would like to volunteer anytime, the signup sheet is in the companionway.

Also, MBT is looking for volunteers: drivers to pick up Greater Boston Food Bank and other donations (using the MBT van); receivers to unload the food deliveries; lunch and dinner volunteers to help prepare and serve the meals; and administrative volunteers to help with mailings and office coverage. For more information, please contact Joanne Champa at 781-595-3224.

### Northeast Association News from the 219 Conference of the MACUCC

In June 2018, The Rev. Patricia Long and I, along with 600 other delegates from United Church of Christ Congregations, participated in the second Tri-State meeting at the MassMutual Center in Springfield, MA. The primary purpose of the meeting was to form an alliance with the historic Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island Conferences. The combined churches count about 160,000 members.



The three Conferences made history on June 16, by voting separately and overwhelmingly to form the new, unified Conference. If approved by the National UCC Synod, the UCC’s national governing body, in June 2019, the new Conference, tentatively named **Together As One (#TA1)**, would govern all three separate historic conferences, MACUCC, RICUCC and CTCUCC, as a single Conference beginning in January 2020.

Additional news from the Conference:

- The Reverend Dr. Jim Antal, Minister of MACUCC is retiring on July 1, 2018. The Rev. Don Remick will serve as the Transitional Interim Minister of the MACUCC.

- During the Awards Luncheon our Interim Pastor, The Reverend Laura Biddle, was listed among the honorees for 25 years of Ordination. We extend our congratulations to her for her good and faithful ministry. The Rev. Patricia Long and I want to thank the NVC for allowing us to represent the congregation at these important conferences.

Respectfully,  
Gertrud (Trudy) Joyce

### The Blessing of the Animals

This year’s blessing of the animals was a huge success! We had about 25 families come down to Marjoram Park with their furry family members for a total of 23 dogs and one brave cat! Reverend Laura led us in prayer and songs as we celebrated our furry loved ones that were here with us on the day, and also, we remembered the beloved pets that have crossed over the rainbow bridge.



## 2018 Elizabeth Peterson Palmer

### Scholarship Recipient

#### Mary O. Swansburg



The Nahant Village Church is pleased to announce that the 2018 Elizabeth Peterson Palmer Scholarship was awarded to **Mary O. Swansburg** of Groton, MA. Mary is the daughter of Andrew and Jennifer Swansburg and the granddaughter of the late Rev. Edward Swansburg. Rev. Swansburg served as minister of the NVC for more than twenty-five years.

Mary Swansburg is a 2018 graduate of Groton-Dunstable Regional High School where she finished near the top of her class. During her High School years, Mary has participated in various food drives, volunteered with the Special Olympics, and worked with the Gay-Straight Alliance, Peer Mediation and St Jude Hospital clubs.

Mary is also an accomplished dancer having studied classical ballet for the last 15 years with L'Ecole de Ballet. In 2013, Mary was awarded a scholarship from the studio for her outstanding work. Also, Mary has danced the last 10 years with Dance Prism, a semi-professional touring ballet company, where she has achieved a soloist status and was named an Apprentice company member. In 2015, she was awarded the Dance Prism Memorial Scholarship for going above and beyond, placing the needs of the Company above her own. Aside from the 25 – 35 hours of rehearsals and classes each week, Mary also found time to run weekly rehearsals for children from ages 9 to 15.

In the fall, Mary will be attending Wheaton College where she has been invited to join the prestigious May Fellows Scholars Program. Mary hopes to continue her dance training at Wheaton, while she works to earn her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in English.



Pictured above: Sister Rachael, Mother Jennifer, Father Andy, and Mary.

## Village Ringers Field Trip

Village Ringers, Hannah Gilman, Sandra Jones, Diane Gaucher, Sharon Scofield (L-R) spent the day at Tree-Top Adventures, a zip-line and climbing park in Canton. So, you ask, which is more challenging, zip lining or handbells?



### Upcoming Fundraisers and Events

Save the following dates for events that are planned for fall and winter.

- Saturday, September 22 – Fall Flea Market
- Saturday, October 13 -- a benefit concert by Notre Dame University Chorus preceded by a potluck supper
- Thursday, October 18 -- NVC fundraiser at the Tides Restaurant
- Saturday, November 3 -- \$5K dinner at the Knights of Columbus (stay tuned for details)
- Saturday, December 1 -- Christmas Fair
- Saturday, January 26 -- Silent Movie with live accompaniment by Rob Humphreville, preceded by a potluck supper

In keeping with our Church's focus on Missions, a portion of the proceeds of all upcoming fundraising events will be earmarked for a charitable organization located in or near Nahant. Candidates include: My Brother's Table, and A Bed for Every Child (sponsored by the MA Coalition for the Homeless). If you have other suggestions, please forward them to a member of the Transition Team (Chris Alexander, Nancy Cantelmo, Bill Crawford, Marrit Hastings, Jen McCarthy, and Maria Welsh) or Fun(d)raising Committee (Elisabeth Foukal, Marrit Hastings, Jen McCarthy, Lissa Stempek, Maria Welsh, and Betsy Winkler).

One or more volunteers are needed to undertake an advertising campaign for the 2018-19 NVC placemat and the \$5K dinner. Contact Marrit Hastings if you can provide a helping hand.