

The Pulpit Rock

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

November 2019

Giving Thanks



Dear Friends,

November is a month when our country turns collectively to the value of gratitude. I am

so grateful for the Nahant Village Church! I love the people in our congregation and am excited for all that the Holy Spirit is doing in our midst.

This month we will enjoy a multitude of voices in the pulpit as we meditate on the themes of Honor, Service, and Gratitude. I am so grateful for the ways in which these different voices will illuminate the scriptures for us and our own calls as Christians in the world.

On November 3rd, Rev. Patricia Long will lead the church in an All Saint's Day service. On November 10th, we will have a Veteran's Day weekend service. My wife, CPT Nicole Battaglia, US Army, and I will share the pulpit that Sunday to talk about what it means to live out progressive Christian values as a millennial military family. On November 17th, Nahant Village Church's own Rev. Teri Motley will be guest preaching. On November 24th we will celebrate Gratitude Sunday, inviting Nahant town employees and civil servants to join us for a gratitude-filled service.

This is an exciting month to be at the Nahant Village Church! As the air begins to chill and the leaves crunch under our feet, I invite you to join us each Sunday morning at 10:30 am for worship. Come and be a part of this warm, growing community of seekers.

This is a great time to become more involved with the church. If you would like to learn more about becoming a member of the church, being baptized, or being a part of a ministry team, please get in touch with me. I would be happy to welcome you further into the life of this church.

With Gratitude for Each of You,
Rev. Megan

Monday Facebook Live Prayer

Rev. Megan speaks live on the Nahant Village Church Facebook page on **Monday mornings at 11:30 a.m.** with church announcements, poetry, and prayer. Start your week off on a positive note and tune in each Monday to watch live or watch at any point during the week. This is a great way to share what's happening at Nahant Village Church with neighbors and community members.

We invite you to "like" the NVC when you visit us on Facebook.

Bible Studies

Join Rev. Megan in her office and the Bible Studies Group on Tuesday mornings at 9:00 a.m.

Monday Morning Beach Walks with Rev Megan at 9:00 a.m.

You are invited to join Rev. Megan for a walk on the beach every Monday morning at 9:00 a.m. (weather permitting). We will meet at Short Beach - across from Seaside Pizza - and walk and talk for 30-45 minutes. This is a time to fellowship and enjoy the beauty of Nahant.

- 3rd 21st Sunday after Pentecost**
10:30 am Worship/Communion
All Saints Service - Rev. Long
- 8th Community Breakfast 8:00 am
- 10th 22nd Sunday after Pentecost**
10:30 am Worship
1:00 pm Serve at MBT
- 17th 23rd Sunday after Pentecost**
Gratitude Sunday Service
10:30 am Worship
- 24th Reign of Christ**
10:30 am Worship
Gratitude Sunday
CCG card making and writing
- 28th Thanksgiving Day

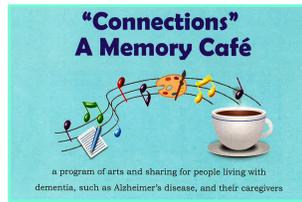


- 1st 1st Sunday of Advent**
10:30 am Worship/Communion
- 7th Christmas Fair and Bake Sale
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- 8th 2nd Sunday of Advent**
10:30 am Worship
- 12th Memory Cafe
Nahant Library, 10:00 a.m.
- 15th 3rd Sunday of Advent**
Gratitude Sunday Service
10:30 am Worship
- 22nd 4th Sunday of Advent**
10:30 am Worship
- 24th Christmas Eve Service**
6:00 p.m.
- 25th Christmas Day
- 29th 1st Sunday after Christmas**
10:30 am Worship
- 31st New Year's Eve

Mark Your Calendars

Connections, A Memory Café Thursday, November, 10 at 10 a.m. at the Nahant Public Library

If you know of anyone concerned about memory loss, please spread the word about our efforts to make Nahant a more dementia friendly community. Sponsors of the Memory Cafe are the Nahant Public Library, the Nahant Council on Aging, and the Nahant Village Church.



Women in Service Nahant Historical Society

Nahant Community Center, 41 Valley Road Sunday, November 3, at 2:00 p.m.

The Nahant Historical Society will present a program about women in Service. The 2019 Paterson lecture is about the remarkable Nahant women who served in the US Armed Forces in wartime and peace.



Bells of Remembrance

For the second year in a row, the **Village Church will toll its bells on November 11 at 11:00 a.m.** to remember veterans. This tradition is observed in many countries to honor the men and women who have served us in times of War and Peace.



Stay Connected

NVC Podcast

You may link to Rev. Megan's podcasts from the lower half of the NVC Home page or by clicking on the "Worship" tab from the Home page.

Sign Up for Weekly E-mail from NVC

Would you like to receive weekly E-mail notices about the activities and services at NVC? If so, sign up on the NVC Website or e-mail your contact information and permission to Secretary@nahantvillagechurch.org.

Rev. Megan's Fall Drop In Office Hours

Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. at the church.



Nahant Community Breakfast Friday, November 8, 8:00 a.m.

The November breakfast will occur on the second Friday (the 8th) with a presentation by Rev. Toby Quirk, Lt. Colonel US Army (retired), and Chaplain at the Chelsea Soldiers Home. The title of his presentation is "Welcoming Our Warriors – Then and Now." He will talk about America's attitude toward combat veterans returning home from World War II, Vietnam, and current operations.



The free breakfast is served at 8 a.m. with the presentation starting at about 8:15. All are welcome. Transportation of elders to and from the breakfast may be made by calling the Tiffany Room at 781-581-7557 a few days in advance.

The Compassionate Care Group (CCG)

On the last Sunday of each month (November 24), materials will be available in Swansburg Hall during Coffee Hour, for people in the Congregation to write cards for those on our "Care List". Cards can then be placed in the Card Box, unsealed, to be addressed and stamped by the CCG members. There will also be materials available to design and make cards. All ages are welcome to participate!

Greeting cards and the Card Box will be available in the Companionway on other Sundays.

During the month of November, CCG will be visiting three nursing homes to provide worship services with the theme of gratitude and anyone is welcome to join us.

If you know of anyone in need of our care, please let Rev. Megan know directly. If you are interested in joining the CCG please let Rev. Megan or a member of the group know. Please keep this ministry of Nahant Village Church in your prayers.

Peace be with you,

Christine Alexander, (coordinator), Margaret Alexander, Olivia Brand, Marrit Hastings, Jen McCarthy, Claudia Orleans, Samantha Scolamiero, Christine Stevens and Betsy Winkler.

It's official now!

In a service filled with music, prayer and palpable joy Rev. Megan Lee Osborn Battaglia-Snell was installed as the permanent minister of the Nahant Village Church on Sunday, Sept. 29, 2019.

A procession of ministers from across the country strolled into the sanctuary in support of Rev. Megan before NVC's own Margaret Alexander, Bill Crawford, Maureen Edison, Maria Welsh, and Samantha Scolamiero offered the responsive call to worship.

The Village Bell Ringers treated the audience to Bell Procession in E-Minor and Rev. Dr. Emily Heath offered the Prayer of Invocation. James Snell, sounding every bit as commanding as his retired USMC status might suggest offered a reading as did Glenda Snell and U.S. Army Capt. Nicole Battaglia, but it was Rev. Quinn Caldwell of New York who brought laughter and levity along with significance and a very personal touch to the sermon about signs, political and otherwise, and acceptance.

Jen McCarthy, chairman of the Deacons and a member of the search committee that brought Rev. Megan to NVC made the all-important ask when she said, "We respectfully request that the Northeast Association install her in this ministry according to the faith and order of the United Church of Christ."

To which Rev. Wendy Vander Hart, of the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ, agreed.

"We have prayerfully examined Rev. Megan Snell. In cooperation and covenant with you, we are pleased to install her as your pastor and teacher," she said.

But wait, there's more.

"Scripture tells us to respect and honor all those who labor among us and help us in the Christian life," said Vander Hart in her exhortation. "It also admonishes pastors to be faithful and loving shepherds merciful and patient with all."

She urged both pastor and congregants to pay attention to that holy ideal and to cultivate a mutual love and honor Christ, who is our peace.

Cheers and applause followed Rev. Megan's promise to serve and the congregation's acceptance of her service.

In her thank you, Rev. Megan said the Nahant Village Church congregation was quick to become a group of people who she loves dearly and is truly invested in.

"I'm so honored to get to accompany this church in faith and in life together in the community of Nahant," she said. "Nicole and I are so glad to live here and to be amongst you all, truly."

A reception in Swansburg Hall followed the event where a genuinely good time was had by all.

Banners Around Town



Be on the lookout for banners that Johnson Elementary School children are making to promote civility (creating a kinder,

more caring community) and to be good stewards of the environment. These banners, with student art work, poems and appropriate sayings, will be on display in various locations around the Town of Nahant during the month of November.

The banners were made as a collaborative initiative involving our Church, the Nahant Public Library, and the Johnson Elementary School. In early October, the topic of "civility and civil discourse" was the focus of the monthly Nahant Community Breakfast. This non-political presentation addressed the urgent need to change our culture and return our country to its founding ideals and the importance of communication and connection. Approximately 65 individuals representing a broad range of backgrounds and views attended. They were introduced to a six-point, simple, non-political civility pledge, as well as the words spoken by Johnson School Elementary School students at the beginning of their day, urging a kinder, more cooperative, respectful, responsible and honest world.

The Nahant Public Library held a town-wide read of Richard Russo's Pulitzer prize winning novel Empire Falls, followed by book discussions, and an HBO showing of the movie. The first book review was a lesson in how challenging it is to bridge a divide and maintain civility when individuals with opposing views try to communicate.

Communication and civil discourse were the topic of weekly worship and sermons for October at the Church.

It was clear from the start that the brief introductory presentation, book review, banners, and sermons are only a beginning. Changing behavior does not happen overnight even among well intentioned people. We need to take small steps over a long period of time and keep the goal of becoming a more "civil society" in the forefront of our interactions at all times.

Future plans call for a "communications" workshop to help us become better listeners and have more respectful conversations and dialogue. All of us recognize that we need help in learning how to bridge "the" or "a" divide. We need practice listening and speaking with love, grace and justice in mind.

**More Upcoming Events
for December and the New Year**

The Nahant Village Church Hosts the Annual
CHRISTMAS BY THE SEA
2019 HOLIDAY FAIR



- Nahant Lobster Rolls**
- Homemade Crafts**
- Holiday Gifts**
- Baked Goods**
- Raffles**
- Silent Auction**
- Designer Boutique**



For the Kids:
A visit from
Mrs. Claus
at 11:00 a.m.
and other fun
activities to follow!



**Saturday
December 7
9:00 a.m -
2:00 p.m.**

The Nahant Village Church
27 Cliff Street
Nahant, MA 01908

On Sale - 2020
Nahant Historical
Society Calendars

Christmas Fair and Bake Sale
Saturday, December 7
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

We need volunteers to help with setup, sales, baking and running the bake sale tables. Please use the signup sheets in the Companionway to signup to help us with this very important fundraiser for NVC.

Details on the poster above.



**Would you like to help
decorate the NVC altar for the
Christmas Eve Service with
beautiful poinsettias?**

If so, please use the order form on the right side of this page, or enclosed in the November bulletins.

These plants make a wonderful addition to your Christmas Day decorations, or you may wish to give one to someone who was not able to attend the service.

Silent Movie Night

Friday, February 8, 2020 @ 7 p.m.

The movie that will be show is **The General** starring Buster Keaton with live piano accompaniment by Rob Humphreville. The movie was made in 1926 and it is considered one of the greatest movies of all time. Here is a plot summary:



One of the most revered comedies of the silent era, this film finds hapless Southern railroad engineer Johnny Gray (Buster Keaton) facing off against Union soldiers during the American Civil War. When Johnny's fiancée, Annabelle Less, is accidentally taken away while on a train stolen by Northern forces, Gray pursues the soldiers, using various modes of transportation in comic action scenes that highlight Keaton's boundless wit and dexterity.

Tickets are \$20 at the door or \$15 if bought in advance and purchased before December 31, 2019. The movie is preceded by a potluck supper at 5:30 p.m.

ORDER YOUR CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA NOW



The altar and sanctuary will be decorated with poinsettias for the Christmas Eve Service on Thursday, December 24th.

The cost per poinsettia is \$12.50.

Please make your check out to the Nahant Village Church. Please complete the form below and send it with your check **no later than Monday, December 16th** to:

Nahant Village Church,
PO Box 77, Nahant, MA 01908
Attn: Lissa Stempek

The form and check may also be placed in the offering plate.

We are requesting that you **TAKE YOUR POINSETTIA AFTER THE SERVICE ON CHRISTMAS EVE.**

(Any poinsettias that are left will be given to someone who is ill, homebound and unable to get out to church.)

POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

I wish to purchase _____ poinsettia(s) for Christmas.
I would like my name printed in the bulletin as follows:
In memory (or in celebration) of:

Given by: _____