



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*

2023 Scripture Readings

Dec. 3 Worship/Communion

First Sunday of Advent- HOPE

Luke 1:39-56

Theme: Hope

Dec. 10 - Worship/

Second Sunday of Advent-
PEACE

Matt: 2:1-12

Theme: Peace

Dec. 17- Worship

Third Sunday of Advent- JOY

Guest minister: Rev. Alex Shea
Will

Theme: Joy

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve

There will be no morning service

Theme: Love

Dec. 31 - New Years Eve

Guest Minister: TBA

Calendar

Christmas Fair!

Saturday, Dec 2, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

World Holiday Music

Wednesday, Dec. 13, 7 p.m.

Caregivers "Connections"

Tuesday, Dec. 19, at 11 a.m.

Supper with Santa

Tuesday, Dec. 19, 5:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, Dec. 24, special music -
6:30/Service - 7 p.m.

Community Breakfast

Friday, Jan. 5, 8 a.m.

SEASON OF LOVE



Dear Family and Friends of Nahant
Village Church,

This is our first Holiday Season together and I am looking forward to it for many reasons. This includes gathering together during Advent and especially on Christmas Eve. We have been working on the Holiday services for sometime and they are looking great. Please consider this a personal invitation to attend and share in the readings, music, carols and decor—and of course the hearty greetings of the season.

Since this is our first Advent and Christmas together I thought I would set out some of my thoughts and theology about this time of year. I adore the Holiday Season's fullness with joy and goodness, but I also love that that fullness is caused by a cultural ethos this time of year that lets

love out shine everything else. If you will pardon the theological pun and backward astronomy, it's because we let the Son eclipse the world. Instead of living in the shadow of the world's ways we step into the light of Jesus' Way of love, and it matters!

This time of year we gussy up our store fronts and streets and living rooms with nice sights and sounds of hope, peace, joy and love for sure, but we also gussy up our words and actions with hope, peace, joy and love. Consequently the world gets much brighter. In the dead of winter a great light shines. That bright light is humankind acting like others matter. From a Christian perspective I'd say we let the Son shine in. We do that so well in the weeks that anticipate and celebrate Christmas that every year we prove the potential of humankind as we more fully do as Jesus taught us to do. His Way works! And we love it because on that Way we love and are loved.

Anyone who has listened to the sermons I've preached during the non-Holiday Season has heard in one form or another spins on Jesus' theology of being love in the world. What I preach differently in the Holiday season is that we prove this time of year our ability to be love and the power love has to transform us and the world. See, we embody love this time of year in the way that Jesus wants us to embody

it all year long! Church done well, tries to do what Jesus wants. Thank you for all the support and efforts in 2023 to help Nahant Village Church try and embody love all year long! With continued support and efforts Nahant Village Church will do it again in 2024!

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

Rev. Scott Elliott, Settled Pastor

THANK YOU!

\$112.50 Raised for scholarships



We've received a thank you note from the Northeast Association/UCC "for you generous donation of \$112.50 to our scholarship fund." The donation was part of the offering taken on Oct. 19th, during Rev. Scott's installation. NA Treasurer Rev. Adam Isbitsky noted that pursuing ministry as a profession comes with a steep price tag.

"And every way we can support our members in discernment is an expression of our covenant in the UCC and will live on into future generations of the church."

Rev. Adam also said that as a past recipient of such scholarship funds from his UCC Association, "I know that the recipient of you donation will feel immediate relief."



HATS, GLOVES & SCARVES, OH MY

THROUGH JAN. 7

The Nahant Village Church is collecting **NEW** insulated, ski-type gloves along with warm knitted hats and scarves now through January 7, 2024. Items collected will go to My Brother's Table in Lynn. Drop offs can be made at NVC and monetary donations are also welcome. For more information call 781-581-1202.

Help us keep our brothers and sisters in need warm this winter — and thank you!



STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

We are very grateful for the pledges that have been received so far, with responses from more than one third of our church members and friends. We urge those who have yet to respond to please consider their annual contribution to the Nahant Village Church so that the Trustees can proceed with the budget process for the upcoming year.

It is only with financial support from our members and friends that we can keep the blessings of our church flowing – caring for one another and our community.

With gratitude
Rex Antrim, the Stewardship Committee



COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND MISSIONS

NO DECEMBER COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

But January's will be great!



Just a reminder that there will be no community breakfast in December due to the annual Christmas Fair, which is Saturday, Dec. 2, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

But January will bring an exciting duo to dine with us. State Sen. Brendan Crighton and state Rep. Peter Capano, will be on hand to give an overview of what they are working on at the State House.

The free breakfast is served at 8 a.m., followed at 8:15 by the presentation. We hope that you will join us for a thoughtful chat, enthusiastic discussion, food and fellowship.

Transportation arrangements for elders to and from the breakfast can be made by calling the Tiffany Room a few days in advance. Their phone number is 781-581-7557.

Spread the word and bring family and friends.

ADVENT BOOK STUDY CANCELED

The advent book study planned for this month has been cancelled due to sparse interest. We will regroup and look at a new book study idea in the new year.

CHURCH COUNCIL meets on the third Monday of each month at 6:30. If you have anything you think Council should be aware of, please contact Jen McCarthy edwarthy@hotmail.com or 781-316-7309

WHITE CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

Each year we collect money donations to help local families in need during the holiday season. Last year we distributed almost \$5,000 in gift cards. Please help us to do the same or better, there's still time! You can write a check or visit nahantvillagechurch.org to make a contribution there. And thanks in advance for making the holiday season more joyful for many in our midst.



Chris Rogers - 1

Amy Dow - 3

Pauline White - 10

Christine Alexander - 29

Flo Sigourney - 29



BIBLE STUDY ON HOLD

Since only one respondent showed interest in Bible Study the program will be put on hold. Rev. Scott has led a number of Bible studies and is happy to lead one for NVC if there is interest. So, if you are interested and just forgot to respond please contact Chris Stevens at secretary@nahantvillagechurch.org or call 781-581-1202.



DID YOU KNOW?

No one from the Nahant Village Church would ever email or text you asking for gift cards!

Last month Rev. Scott's accounts were "cloned" resulting in fake emails and text messages. Several members of our church family received emails or texts from him asking first for time, then for gift cards. Nationwide criminals have been mimicking clergy emails for years using website information to try and scam

If this happens to you please keep two things in mind:

1. No one, not Rev. Scott or anyone else from NVC would ever ask you for gift cards via email or text.
2. Rev. Scott doesn't text! He doesn't even use a cell phone! So if you receive a text from him — you can be sure it's a scam.

If you receive an email from Rev. Scott or anyone connected to NVC that you think is strange or questionable in anyway do not respond or take any action, particularly if it includes money or sensitive information. Call the office at 781-581-1202 or Jen McCarthy at 781-316-7309 or call the person (if you know them) who emailed/texted you directly. Find out from the real source if the email/text is valid. If it is valid, respond as you wish. If it's not delete it immediately and report as spam!

A NIGHT OF WORLD HOLIDAY MUSIC

Wednesday Dec. 13, 7 p.m.

NVC will host an hour of World Holiday Music on Wednesday Dec. 13 at 7 p.m. It will be a special evening with a variety of music and musicians including a children's choir. Hot chocolate and cookies will be served following the program. Come kick off the season with us!



SUPPER WITH SANTA

Tuesday, Dec. 19, 5:30 p.m.

Breaking news from the North Pole; Santa will be here at NVC for dinner, Tuesday, Dec. 19 starting at 5:30 p.m. Aimed at kids aged 1-100, come enjoy pizza and salad, decorate a cookie for dessert and of course meet the big guy himself. At 6:45 p.m. Santa will read a story.

The event is free and open to the public but please RSVP to secretary@nahantvillagechurch.org or by calling the church at 781-581-1202 or Jen at 781-316-7309, so we have an idea of how many pizzas to have on hand.



Santa had a free afternoon and spent it tooling around Nahant and ran into some old friends along the way! Merry Christmas & ho, ho, ho!



OH WHAT A PAINT NIGHT

Thanks to Marty Taylor for leading a crowd of about 25 during paint night! And thanks to those who came out to support this NVC fundraiser — it was a blast!



You needn't be an artist to participate. The night was a chance to paint with abandon and with friends and lots of laughter. And it was so successful we're already planning another for spring. So don't hesitate next time!



NVC IN ACTION

FROM THE TRUSTEES

Cal Hastings and Rex Antrim met with Brendan Murray from Murray Masonry and More, the contractor for the exterior phase of the Universal Accessibility project to create a punch list for completion of that project. We discussed with his carpenter making removable inserts to fill the voids along the curbing in the portico, among other details. I have followed up with Brendan with design ideas for those.

We are waiting for final costs for the project, including unanticipated repair work.

At our recent Trustees meeting we discussed the next (interior) phase of the accessibility project. The consensus is that we should proceed with that work once we work through the design ideas.

We had more discussion on exterior lighting in front of the church, and a landscaping committee was formed to come up with ideas for that and plans for replanting the area that was disturbed by the accessibility project.

We also discussed a job description for the sexton position at the church. Cal and Marrit provided a draft for that job description and proposed compensation for the position.

The Trustees will work with Marrit to prepare a budget for 2024, but we are waiting for more responses to the recent pledge letters.

With thanks,
Rex Antrim

CHURCH COUNCIL CORNER

The recent Church Council meeting included updates from various committees such as:

Finance/stewardship – Eighty-one letters were sent to members and more to friends of the church. A little over one-third have come back resulting in roughly \$83,000 in pledges. Stewardship scheduled another meeting for December 4.

Deacon – Deacons will line up greeters for Christmas Eve

Treasure – As of the end of October – there is a budget deficit of \$70K and some funds have been taken from the endowment to cover it.

Missions - *My Brother's Table - A Hat, Glove and Scarf collection has started and will run through January 7, 2024.

There was a meeting of people who are interested in helping with MBT, with a good turnout. Work parties to make sandwiches will start in January. And in January, envelopes will go back into the bulletins on the second Sunday in the month.

Pastor updates

* The Ecumenical service at First Church in Swampscott was wonderful.

* Stewardship Sunday has been going well with great speakers.

* The first Reign of Christ service was planned Nov. 26.

* Advent – starts Dec 3rd and Rev. Scott is organizing participants. The Fourth Sunday of Advent will take place during the Christmas Eve service.

*TV screen in the Chapel – It was discussed that possibly, down the road going green with the bulletin and projecting it onscreen, rather than printing it each week.

*Rev. Scott is sending out handwritten notes to the members of NVC for the holiday season.

Music Committee: * Music for World Holiday Music Night is still being planned.

* Youth Choir – About 12 kids participating. They will sing on the 13th and 24th of December.

*Jen and Chris will be the ushers for WMN.

Fundraising updates

Paint night – raised over \$600. It was well attended. Another will be planned for the spring.

Supper with Santa – Dec 19th Jen and Chris will sponsor the night. There will be cookie decorating and Santa (aka Scott Elliott) will read a story.

Christmas Parade – Hot chocolate. Dec 23rd. Church opens at about 4 p.m.

Christmas – Although Christmas falls on a Sunday, there will be only one service, 7 p.m. There will be no special music at 6:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve but bells will play gathering music about 10 minutes beforehand.

ZOOM WORSHIP SERVICES

We **Zoom** all of our worship services live each Sunday, so if you can't attend in person, you are welcome to join us on Zoom. Meeting ID 869 1204 8062 Password: 123456.

We also record each service. You can visit our website www.nahantvillagechurch.org for all of the YouTube links. To navigate to the archive of services, click on **WORSHIP** under the blue banner, then click on On Line Worship Services. You can also find services posted on the church's Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/TheNahantVillageChurch>

WANTED: VOLUNTEERS FOR COFFEE HOUR

All you need to do is serve coffee and treats, provided by you, or other volunteers immediately after worship and then clean up. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Jen McCarthy.



WANT A VISIT?

Rev. Scott is happy to visit members and is willing to travel — all you have to do is ask and schedule a date & time! Let him know by calling 781-581-1202 or emailing him at Nahantpastor@gmail.com. because — **he won't know you want a visit if you don't ask!**

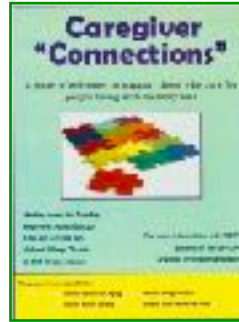


CAREGIVER "CONNECTIONS"

Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2023

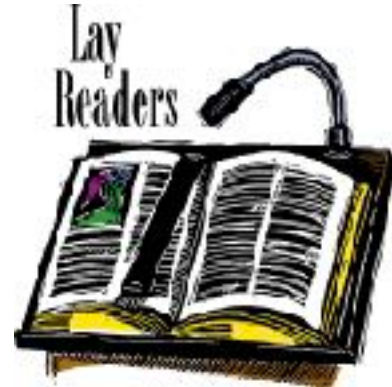
11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Nahant Village Church - Swansburg Hall



The Caregiver Connections Support Group was formed to provide individuals who care for those with memory problems a forum to share experiences and to support each other. This Support Group meets monthly on the **third Tuesday of each month from 11 a.m - 12 p.m.** The Caregiver Support Group is sponsored by

Nahant COA, Nahant Public Library, and Nahant Village Church. An experienced representative from Greater Lynn Senior Services will also participate. Please share this information with anyone who might benefit from participating. Contact Mary Miner of the Nahant COA at mmminer@nahant.org for more information.



WE NEED LITURGISTS ON SUNDAYS

No experience necessary!

If you would like to participate in the worship service by leading responsive prayers, reading scripture and announcing hymns, please contact Jen McCarthy at 781-316-7309 or call the NVC office at 781-581-1202 or sign up electronically by clicking on this link

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F054FADAF28AAFC1-liturgist>



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

CONTACT INFORMATION

Office Hours

Saturday-Thursday - 9 a.m. -noon/1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Friday 9 a.m. - noon.

Phone messages are checked regularly.

In case of an emergency contact Jen McCarthy at
781-316-7309

Church – 781-581-1202

Minister: Rev. Scott Elliott -nahantpastor@gmail.com

781-581-1202

Church Council

Jen McCarthy - edwarthy@hotmail.com

or 781-316-7309

Moderator

Nancy Cantelmo - nlc31@comcast.net

or 781-599-3977 or 617-794-6477)

Clerk

Rex Antrim - - rexantrim@comcast.net

or 781-856-1067

Board of Trustee Chair

Chris Stevens - cjs_ros2@verizon.net

or 781-254-6827 - Deacon/office manager

Marrit Hastings - (calhast@hotmail.com)

or 781-581-5691) - Treasurer

Buildings and Grounds

Cal Hastings - calhast@hotmail.com

or 781-581-5691)

Amy Dow - ikors92@yahoo.com

617-378-8520

Compassionate Care Circle - 781-581-1202
secretary@nahantvillagechurh.com

You are invited to ...

Sunday Worship Service in the Sanctuary

Sundays @10:30 am

or to Live Zoom Sunday Service

Live Zoom Service

Meeting ID: 869 1204 8062

Passcode: 123456

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

A link is available on the NVC Home page.

Caregiver “Connections”

Third Tuesday of the month

11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

NVC - Swansburg Hall

Village Ringers

Mondays @ 5:15 p.m.

Swansburg Hall

Trustees

Second Tuesday of each month

NVC Library

Church Council

Third Monday of each month

NVC Library

We would *Love* for you join us!