



# The Pulpit Rock

The Nahant Village Church ~ 27 Cliff Street, Nahant, MA 01908

July/August 2017

## July 2017

### 2nd Fourth Sunday/Pentecost

Guest Minister: Rev. Betsy waters

Communion Sunday

9:30 am - Worship

10:30 am - Fellowship

7th 8:00 am - Breakfast

### 9th Fifth Sunday/Pentecost

Guest Minister: Rev. Elizabeth King

9:30 am - Worship

10:30 am - Fellowship

1-4:30 pm - Serve MBT

### 16th Sixth Sunday/Pentecost

9:30 am - Worship

10:30 am - Fellowship

13th 7:00 pm - Trustee's Mtg.

### 23rd Seventh Sunday/Pentecost

9:30 am - Worship

10:30 am - Fellowship

### 30th Eighth Sunday/Pentecost

9:30 am - Worship

10:30 am - Fellowship

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## August 2017

### 6th Ninth Sunday/Pentecost

Communion Sunday

9:30 am - Worship

10:30 am - Fellowship

7th 8:00 am - Breakfast

### 13th Ninth Sunday/Pentecost

Guest Minister: Rev. David Van Adler

9:30 am - Worship

10:30 am - Fellowship

### 20th Ninth Sunday/Pentecost

Guest Minister: Rev. Patricia Long

9:30 am - Worship

10:30 am - Fellowship

### 27th Ninth Sunday/Pentecost

9:30 am - Worship

10:30 am - Fellowship

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

July and August are great opportunities to slow down to a pace of life that is easier and calmer. Here at NVC we will have regular worship services but at an earlier time: 9:30am instead of 10:30am. Please come as often as you are able!!!

I will be on vacation the weeks of July 2 and 9 and August 13 and 20. Our guest preachers are Rev. Betsy Waters, Rev. Elizabeth King, Rev. David Van Arsdale, and Rev. Patricia Long. I hope you will join them on these Sundays.

### The Art of Slowing Down

Slowing down to the pace of your own heart's rhythm is a wonderful spiritual practice. We can imagine that during the warmest season in ancient Judea, Jesus slowed down too.

Walking slowly, moving slowly, observing life slowly, eating and drinking slowly, and even speaking slowly, allows us to see people's eyes and recognize their expressions. Our slower pace makes room for the Holy Spirit within and without. Slowing down is an art form. Slowly, we become God's knitters, potters, poets, painters and singers.

I'd love to see what kind of art is created this summer. On Rally Sunday September 10th, plan to bring something to share from your summer slow-down. Let's end the summer and begin the fall with energy and fellowship, ready to change the pace of life once again.

In the Spirit of slowing down, I wish you a peaceful summer.

Sincerely, *Rev. Laura Biddle*

## Worship Themes for July & August

### July 2nd

#### Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Guest Minister: Rev. Betsy waters

Communion Sunday

"What do you long to hear?"

Matthew 10:40-42; Acts 2: 42-46

### July 9th

#### Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Guest Minister: Rev. Elizabeth King

"....."

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### July 16th

#### Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

"When we were Young"

Matthew 13:1-9; 18-23

### July 23rd

#### Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

"To Go with the Flow"

Matthew 13:24-30

### July 30th

#### Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

"God's realm on earth is like...."

Matthew 13:31-33

### August 6th

#### Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Communion Sunday

"Be Impeccable with your Word"

Romans 9:1-5

### August 13th

#### Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Guest Minister: Rev. David Van Adler

"Leftovers ... and Still More!"

Psalm 17:1-7, 15; Matthew 14:13-21

### August 20th

#### Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Guest Minister: Rev. Patricia Long

"....."

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### August 27th

#### Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

"Who Are You?"

Matthew 16:13-20

## July Nahant Community Breakfast

Friday, July 7th

Peter Foukal will give a talk on their recent visit to Cambodia and Laos. He will first describe their stay in Angkor Wat, the vast Buddhist temple complex in the Cambodian jungle that was, in medieval times, the biggest city on the planet. Then an exciting drive in Land Rovers up to remote Laotian mountain villages near the Ho Chi Minh trail. Finally, a descent of the Namu river rapids and the broad Mekong to the royal city of Luang Prabang. Finally, their return to Bangkok in mourning for its beloved king, and a last overnight in the luxurious desert emirate of Qatar.

The free breakfast starts at 8. All are welcome and please feel free to bring a family member or friend. We offer a hearty breakfast, an informative presentation and wonderful camaraderie.

Arrangements for the 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.



If you are the last person leaving the sanctuary, chapel, Swansburg Hall, office or any other room, PLEASE MAKE SURE that all lights and fans are off. It is important to preserve energy.

Thanks for your help and cooperation,  
*Buildings & Grounds Committee*

### SAVE THE DATE!

**Wednesday, January 20th**

Silent Movie Night with Rob Humphreville,  
Preceded by a potluck supper.

### News from the MACUCC

#### Historic Vote, Three Southern New England UCC Conferences vote to Move Toward Joining by forming a New Conference.

Beginning in 2009 members of the Board of Directors of each of the three Southern New England UCC Conferences, CT, MA and RI, have been in discussion to address the reality of fewer churches, drops in membership and a look at how the churches can find a new vitality to remain faithful to the Gospel. These Board members after seven years are suggesting that we consider creating a new Conference to become stronger by being "Together as One".

As a result, the first-ever joint Annual Meeting of the CT, MA and RI Conferences of the United Church of Christ drew 1,000 people to the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford on June 16 & 17, 2017. The Rev Patricia Long and I attended to represent the membership of the Nahant Village Church.

At this meeting, the CT, MA and RI Conferences of the UCC voted decisively to move ahead toward forming a new combined Conference, so that they may have a stronger voice speaking for justice and may more effectively carry out the mission and ministry of the UCC in this area. Members from each of the three conferences, CT, MA and NH, will now develop a formal proposal for a new Conference which will be brought before a second joint Annual Meeting a year from now in Springfield, MA.

This is not a done deal. All delegates in attendance hope to engage their local churches in discussions around this matter during this next year. Rev Patricia and I truly want to hear your voice that we might represent you more clearly in June, 2018.

The single Board of this new Conference in Southern New England would also act, as necessary, as the Board of Directors for each of the CT, MA and RI Conferences. The proposal would allow for the three historic and legal Conference entities of CT, RI and MA to remain in place, and may also recommend a transition to a unified budget and a new staffing structure. The proposal recognizes that Conference boundaries – including changes in Conference boundaries – are determined by vote of Synod. It is anticipated that if this proposal is approved by the joint annual meeting of the RI, CT and MA Conferences in June 2018, the new board will appeal to Synod in 2019 for recognition of the new UCC Conference. As you can see, this is a long process in order that the local churches may have a significant say. To know that many of our regional leaders have been studying this issue for seven years gives the local churches a strong basis for discussion.

With the separate affirmative votes for a new Conference cast on June 17, 2017 by delegates and pastors of churches from the three UCC Conferences, CT, MA and RI, the planning process for the structure of this new conference will now begin and may lead us to respond to God's call and increase the interdependence of the three UCC Conferences of RI, MA and RI. Rev Patricia and I are willing to spearhead discussions in our church should that be your need. We have returned from this year's Conference with much hope for the future of local churches. God is still speaking...

Respectfully submitted,

Your NVC Delegate to the Northeast Association of the MACUC,

*Trudy Joyce*

## Altar of Stars

On Father's Day, June 18th, the altar of the Nahant Village Church was adorned with brightly colored star shaped balloons, with the names of men whom we wished to remember or honor.

The idea of the Altar of Stars came from Norma Poole, a long time member of the NVC, who learned of it from a friend at her assisted living home. Norma suggested it would be a good way to celebrate Father's Day in our church. Although she could not be with us, we thank Norma for her continued interest in the NVC.

During the Sunday morning service, Reverend Laura read aloud the names of each man, as well as the person who honored him. At the end of the service, each person could take home their balloon, if they wished.

We thank Bill and Carol Crawford for donating the balloons to the Altar of Stars.

An envelope was placed in the bulletin, for those who also wished to make a donation to the New England Center for Homeless Veterans, located in Boston. This organization provides programs for education, clinical support, employment and housing. An amazing \$350 was donated that morning!

The Altar of Stars provided an opportunity to remember or honor important men in our lives, as well as those veterans, who have served our country and are now at risk for homelessness. We thank all who participated in this special Father's Day program.



## FLEA MARKET AND BAKE SALE SUCCESS

What a fun fun(d)raiser. The bake sale was incredible -- not only because of all the delicious baked goods, but because of the cute decorations that were so cleverly designed by Lenora Brauner. The bake sale brought in over \$400. The rest of the flea market did about \$2,500. This brings the total for this fundraiser to almost \$3,000. Many thanks to the donors of baked goods, clothes, shoes and boots, china, kitchenware and children's toys, to the folks who did all the sorting and organizing, the buyers, and last but not least the crew that packed up the leftover items and shipped them off to the Salvation Army.

Participants in the Flea Market were: Chris and Margaret Alexander, Olivia Brand, Lenora Brauner, Diana Donahue, Amy Dow, Maureen Edison, Hannah Gilman, Lucy Grimm, Cal and Marrit Hastings, Andy Karl, Jen McCarthy, Robbie McGowan, Claudia Orleans, Staci Paro, Andy and Roz Puleo, Edie Richardson, Calantha Sears, Lissa Stempek, Maria Welsh, Paul Wilson, and Betsy Winkler. Many thanks to all (and apologies to those whose name(s) may inadvertently have been left off this list).

