



# The Pulpit Rock

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

## March 2018

- 1st Bible Studies 11 am
- 2nd Community Breakfast
- 4th Third Sunday in Lent**  
*Communion and Soup Sunday*  
10:30 am - Worship Service  
11:30 am - Soup Sunday
- 11th Fourth Sunday of Lent**  
10:30 am - Worship Service  
1:00 pm Serve at MBT
- 13th Transition Team Mtg 3:00 pm  
Trustees Meeting 7:00 pm
- 15th Worship at Jesmond 9:30 am  
Bible Studies 11 am
- 18th Fifth Sunday in Lent**  
10:30 am - Worship Service  
and Soup Sunday
- 22rd Bible Studies 11 am
- 25th Palm Sunday-Sixth Sunday in Lent**  
9:00 am - PCS  
10:30 am - Worship Service
- 26th Tides Fundraiser 6-7:00 pm
- 29th Potluck Supper - 6-9:00 pm  
Worship and Tenebrae Skit 7pm

## April 2018

- 1st Easter Sunday Services**  
6:15 am Sunrise Service  
10:30 am *Worship/Communion*
- 6th Community Breakfast
- 8th Second Sunday of Easter**  
10:30 am - Worship Service  
11:30 am - Soup Sunday
- 10th Transition Team Mtg 3:00 pm  
Trustees Meeting 7:00 pm
- 15th Third Sunday of Easter**  
10:30 am - Worship Service
- 22rd Fourth Sunday of Easter**  
10:30 am - Worship Service
- 24th Transition Team Mtg. 3:00 pm
- 26th Tides Fundraiser - 6-9:00 pm
- 29th Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
9:00 am - PCS  
10:30 am - Worship Service



*"Forgive them, for they know not what they do."* Jesus on the Cross

### **A Prayer about Forgiveness**

O God, we have wandered far from your intention for us. We have lived for our own momentary pleasure, forgetting our kinship with your hurting children. You sent your son Jesus to be a light for all nations, including ours. We pray that we might uphold your light in the face of the many tragedies that hurt your children. Encourage our voices to be loud, our prayers to be fierce, and our bodies to be clear as we follow him into this Lenten world of ours.

Jesus, mediator of a new relationship with God, a new covenant with one another, and a new willingness to forgive ourselves and others, be with us during this month of Lent. Remind us that one of your prayers on the cross had to do with forgiveness. As frail and flawed human beings, forgive us and join us in this complicated world in which we live. AMEN

Dear Friends,

Please join me after service on **March 4th at 12:15 p.m** for a retreat titled **"Learning to Pray once again."**



In his book Too Busy Not to Pray, Bill Hybels writes: "If you lower the ambient noise of your life and listen expectantly for those whispers of God, your ears will hear them. And when you follow their lead, your world will be rocked."

With love, Rev. Laura

### **Maundy Thursday - March 29**

Please join us on Maundy Thursday for **Potluck Supper 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm** and for Worship and Tenebrae Skit **"Following Jesus in the Shadows"** in the Chapel at 7:00 pm.

### **Bible Studies**

Bible studies are on the Thursdays at 11:00. Please bring friends.



## **Worship Themes for February**

### **March 4**

#### **Third Sunday in Lent**

Theme: Respect the Temple  
Scripture: John 2:13-12



### **March 11**

#### **Fourth Sunday in Lent**

Services twill be officiated by the Reverend Patricia Long

### **March 18**

#### **Fifth Sunday in Lent**

Theme: Save Me From this Hour  
Scripture: Jeremiah 31:13-34; John 12:20-33

### **March 25**

#### **Palm Sunday**

#### **Sixth Sunday in Lent**

Village Ringers  
NVC Choir "Once Upon a Tree"  
Scripture: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29;

## A message from your Co-Moderators

March calls to us in many ways.

We move from the darkness of winter to the promise of spring.

We think of Jesus in the desert fasting, praying, and being tempted by Satan for 40 days and 40 nights before he began his ministry.

March is a good time to reflect upon all that we have, all that we can do to help others, and how we can grow closer to God.

In anticipation of Easter, let us move through March - and the season of Lent - together.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rich Stevens and Maria Welsh

## March Nahant Community Breakfast

### Friday, March 2nd



The next Community Breakfast will be held on Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>. It will feature a presentation by Dr. Ronald Plotka of North Shore Center for Laser, Cosmetic and Family Dentistry in Swampscott. The focus of his presentation will be on sleep apnea, a condition in which breathing stops periodically during sleep. He will review what sleep apnea is, its signs, and its

dangers, as well as available appliances to remedy this condition. Dr. Plotka is currently taking an internship on SLEEP at Tufts Dental University and is the only DME (Durable Medical Equipment) dentist in the area. He is collaborating with local physicians and EMT's to help screen patients for possible sleep disorders.

The breakfast is free. Please plan to come for a hearty breakfast, an informative presentation and wonderful camaraderie. Spread the word and bring a family members or friend.

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 781-581-5691.

April's breakfast will Town Administrator Jeff Chelgren who will discuss the Town Budget and other issues to be addressed in the Town warrant.

## Easter Flower Orders

This year the altar and sanctuary will be decorated with a variety of plants for Easter. If you would like to order plants, please pick up a form in the Companionway. The cost of each plant is \$12.00.

The deadline for orders is Sunday, March 25, 2018.

## You Are Invited to a Special Worship/Conversation Sunday March 4, 10:30 a.m., Swansburg Hall

The **Transition Team** has been very busy, working with Reverend Laura, to prepare our UCC Profile document. As you remember, we held a "town meeting" in Swansburg Hall on Sunday May 21, 2017 to discuss important issues and try to define who we are as a church. A survey was written by the Transition Team, and distributed to the congregation at the meeting and then mailed to those who could not attend. We received 38 surveys back from 120 that were distributed. These results were then tallied. Members of the Transition Team went to visit various leaders in the Nahant Community to get an idea of what NVC meant to the town of Nahant. We have taken all this information and collected other data to answer the questions put forth by the UCC in our Profile document.

The Local Church Profile of the United Church of Christ, is a search and call tool for congregations, meant to advance the Spirit's guidance into God's future. Our responses are shaped around three questions: Who are we? Who is our neighbor? and Who is God calling us to be? The transition team has incorporated these guidelines into our work.

Members of the Transition Team are: Christine Alexander, Nancy Cantelmo, Bill Crawford, Marrit Hastings, Jen McCarthy, and Maria Welsh, under the guidance of Reverend Laura Biddle. We have completed a first draft of the Local Church Profile and would like to present key sections to the congregation for their comments and suggestions.

We will hold a meeting in Swansburg Hall on March 4, 2018 to consider the profile. After a brief worship service, we will present our profile work for your consideration. We will also hold Soup Sunday at that time. Please plan to attend and help us to move further on our way toward our next settled minister.



## Soup Sundays

Many thanks to Jen McCarthy, Chris and Rich Stevens for providing delicious soups for the two Soup Sundays. To ensure a successful Soup Sunday Program for the rest of the year, please pick a date and sign up to make a soup. Funds collected on Soup Sundays will be used to support the Church's Missions Program.

## Save The Date and to Come Help Annual Work Party

Our annual work party will be held on St. Patrick's Day, **Saturday, March 17 from 8 a.m. to noon.** This is to



spruce up the Church and ready it for Palm Sunday and Easter. Please come and lend a helping hand. Coffee and donuts will be available for the volunteers.

Some outdoor work needs to be done such as raking dead leave. So, weather permitting, bring a rake and some leaf bags for that purpose. However, most of the work will be indoors (the Sanctuary/Choir Loft, Narthex and Companionway). It would be helpful if you could bring a step ladder, small vacuum cleaner, dust cloths, wood polish and rags, window cleaner, paper towels and a pail.

*Many hands make light work.* We look forward to joining hands with you on the 17<sup>th</sup>.



## Tides Fundraiser for Nahant Village Church on Monday, March 26, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m

You can help by being on the lookout for raffle items: gift certificates from your favorite merchant, gift baskets, art, tickets to sporting events, jewelry etc. make great raffle items! See back page of PR for more information.

## Love Is An Action Verb

Matthew 22:38. You shall love your neighbor as yourself

### Coat Drive is a Success!

NVC stepped up to the call for coats this winter and generously gave 25 coats for our Lynn neighbors. The Marshall Middle School was so grateful to receive seven coats. Girls, Inc. jumped for joy to receive 18 coats: 8 girl's, 4 boy's, 4 men's and 2 women's (as well as 6 light jackets to be added to their yearly boutique). Well done! Lisa Haley, Lissa Stempel, Diane Gaucher

### Boston Homeless Census

On January 31, volunteers from NVC donated 180 pairs of socks to the Census to be distributed to local shelters. Sandra Jones, Diane Gaucher, Olivia Brand, and Margaret Alexander (not pictured).



## Fundraising

A major portion of funds needed each year to run the Church are generated through a variety of fundraisers. These include flea markets, Tides fundraisers, bake sales, the Christmas Fair and more. The Fundraising Committee, who will be meeting in the near future, is looking for fresh, new and exciting ideas for 2018. Suggestions may be sent to Marrit Hastings or Jen McCarthy.

In the meantime, you can help raise funds by promoting and selling high quality notecards or unframed prints of a recent watercolor of the Church (sample right) by Steven Foote. Those of



you who made a financial pledge to the Church for 2018 will have received a thank you note on this new stationery. The cost is \$100 for a print and \$15 for a package obtained free of charge from the Treasurer. They are ready for pick up in the Companionway for those who requested envelopes in previous years.



## E-Giving is Easy

You can enroll in E-Giving at any time during the year. You simply decide how you want to pay for your pledges or contributions (i.e. checking or savings account or credit card), the amount, and the schedule for making contributions. Once enrolled, the transactions occur automatically. The donor can make changes at any time. Obtain an enrollment form from Marrit Hastings, our Treasurer or approach her with questions that you may have about electric-giving. It works for everyone.

## Contribution Statements and Offering Envelopes

If you were expecting to receive a Statement of Financial Contributions for 2017 and have not one, please contact Treasurer Marrit Hastings.

Cash contributions can only be tracked if they are put in an envelope bearing the donor's name.

Offering envelopes (one for each week, as well as once-a-month envelopes for our Communion Offering Fund, and special offerings for Easter and Christmas) may be obtained free of charge from the Treasurer. They are ready for pick up in the Companionway for those who requested envelopes in previous years.



**COME!!** *Bring a friend!*

Mark your calendars and  
**Join us at the TIDES**  
**Monday March 26,**  
**6-9pm**

**Great Raffles!**

*Fun!!*

NVC receives 10% of all Tides proceeds



**beautiful baskets  
merchant certificates  
collectibles,  
decoratables  
and more!**



**Please support the programs  
and Mission Outreach of the  
Nahant Village Church**

**If you can donate a Raffle Item or would  
like to make a donation in advance  
contact Jen McCarthy at 781-316-7309.**