



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*

WE ARE WORTHY

MARCH 2023 Scripture Readings

March 5 - Worship/ Communion

Second Sunday in Lent

Gen 12:1-4

Theme: Being a Blessing to all

March 12 - Worship

Third Sunday in Lent

John 4:5-42

Theme: Thirsty Voices

March 19 - Worship

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Ephesians 5:8-14

*Theme: Darkness, Light & Christ
within*

March 26 - Worship

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Theme: Breath of Hope

Calendar

Lenten Book Study

Wednesday, March 1, soup at 6:30
p.m. /discussion at 7 p.m.

Nahant Community Breakfast

Friday, March. 3 , at 8 a.m.

Silent Movie Night

Friday, March 10, potluck at 5:30
p.m./movie at 7 p.m.

Caregivers "Connections"

Tuesday, March 21 at 11 a.m.

Genesis Supper Club

Fridays, 5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Bible Study (via Zoom) Tuesdays
at 10-11 a.m.

See inside for Zoom info



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As this Pulpit Rock goes to “press” the season of Lent will be upon us. Many have a negative view or feeling about Lent. That’s understandable, some religious leaders use it as a time to make us feel lowly and unworthy. The word “Lent” though is itself full of hope and worth- as the season is meant to be. “Lent” is derived from the Latin word for the season of spring, it literally means to lengthen daylight. The word and the season look forward to the hope in darkness of winter/life that extended sun/Son light will bring. Simply put, it can be understood as a season to positively prepare for Easter. The ashes, fasting and other Lenten rituals remind us to prepare for that momentous day on the Christian calendar by making serious efforts at transformation, turning away from things that keep us from being our best. See, Lent, like Easter, is about the transformation and the resurrection of each of us.

There are those who think Lent must be a time to consider sin makes us all unworthy, that’s not true. The whole point of Jesus’ teaching, life, death and

resurrection is that we are worthy. All. Of. Us. That’s what the “For God so loved the world” part of John 3:16 is all about. Jesus did not do what he did – and God did do what God did– that first Holy Week because we have no worth. What happened, happened because we were and are worth it. We– YOU– are worthy.

Spring is the season of transformation from the dark stark cold of winter to the bright green warmth and renewal of life. Lent too can be understood as a season of hope. There is a hope offered of spring-like renewal in us through Christianity, the following of Jesus’ Way. Have we made mistakes? Yes. Are some of them big? Yes. Have we made worse mistakes or more than others? Probably some yes, some, no. But the past – whatever it is– can’t hold us down, we can move past it.

All the talk of ashes and rebirth at Lent reminds us that we can choose to place all those mistakes on the ash heap of time and from the present onward arise like a phoenix into new life.

Lent is the time of year when we reflect on that pile of ashes and Jesus’ Way – our Way– out of it. That reflection can be disturbing, it can be humbling, but it is not because we are unworthy, it is because the opposite is true, we are worthy of living a better life with more of Love. And God is Love!

Jesus lived a life that tragically ended. Rome and even Jesus’ followers thought his death on the cross meant that his body would return to earth, ashes to ashes. But he arose from those ashes and lives on.

He lives on in us. Here and now. The church is the Body of Christ and each of us are called to look inward and find and provide as much love as we can, in each moment.

There is another metaphor for the hope of the season, the diamond. Ashes are carbon, and carbon is the very thing that creation in a certain way turns to diamonds. Lent is about the diamond Jesus' life is for us. It is also about how we can make diamonds of our life from whatever pile of ashes we find ourselves in at this moment. We are all diamonds in the making. Lent is a time when we give deep and meaningful thought to the truth and hope of that good news.

Your Brother in Christ,
Rev Scott Elliott



PEACE VILLAGE LEADERSHIP TEAM BEING FORMED

Would you like to work on forming a community interfaith

peace camp for children? Well, Nahant Village Church is doing just that. We're forming a leadership team to create Nahant "Peace Village."

Peace Village is a tried and true summer camp designed to thoughtfully teach peaceful practices to children through classes, music, art, interfaith peace stories, and of course fun and adventure in the great outdoors. We are intentionally seeking to make this an interfaith friendly effort open to the community and plan to arrange for peace storytellers from multiple faith communities to speak with children. The camp will be August 14th - 18th, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Flash Road Playground.

We expect the camp to be filled to capacity with thirty children from grades 1 to 6. It takes a village to put on a Peace Village, which means we need volunteers. Scott and Jen McCarthy will co-lead this effort but they need a core team of other adults who like working with children to create the Nahant Peace Village.

If you are one of the many in this great church community who have been hoping or asking or praying

that our church would find a way to do something special for children, or restart summer camps, or work for peace, then join us. Please prayerfully consider signing up to be on the Peace Village leadership team. This church can only act as the hands and feet and voice of God through us, the members. For more information or to volunteer contact Scott at nahantpastor@gmail.com Chris Stevens at secretary@nahantvillagechurch.org.

BTW: DID YOU KNOW

Speaking of interfaith work did you know that Rev. Scott has a history of successfully bringing together people of all faiths to work together? In red rural Ohio he was able to team up with Buddhist, Jewish, Muslim and Christian leaders to speak at a Peace Village each year. He was key in bringing a Zen Buddhist Community to share space in his former church. He also coordinated an anti-racism partnership of churches, other faith communities and colleges efforts for which he received a civil rights award and invitations to speak and help lead community peace and anti-racism discussions involving many faiths. Scott hopes to continue that sort of ecumenical and interfaith work in Nahant and would appreciate help making such connections that members of our church might asked to facilitate.

PALM SUNDAY/EASTER CHOIR

There is still time to lift your voice

It is not too late to join us in song for Palm and Easter Sunday. Rehearsals began on Sunday, February 26th at 11:45 a.m. and run for an hour. We invite you to come and bring your singing friends to join as well.

If you plan to attend, please contact Marrit Hastings at 781-581-5691 or calhast@hotmail.com so she can have music folder ready for you.



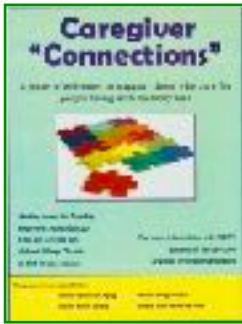
COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND MISSIONS

CAREGIVER “CONNECTIONS”

Tuesday, March 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 mminer@nahant.org for more information.

DINNER & A MOVIE

Friday, March 10th, 2023

in the chapel



NVC will show Charlie Chaplin's "City Lights," which will once again be accompanied by the musical improvisations of organist Robert Humphreville. There will be a potluck supper at 5:30 p.m. for the who'd like to share a meal.

The movie will start at 7 p.m. There is a suggested donation of \$20.

"City Lights" is about "A hapless but resilient tramp who falls in love with a blind flower girl on the tough city streets and hilarity and sweetness ensue. So mark your calendar get ready for a fun ride with Rob and Charlie amid the "City Lights."

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Friday March 3, 2023

8 a.m.

Swansburg Hall

North Shore Community College Director of Development Nicole Marcotte will be this month's speaker at the breakfast, Friday, March 3 at 8 a.m. in Swansburg Hall.

Marcotte's presentation will focus on NCSS and its efforts to "Transform the Future with Our Community." It is said to be a bold and ambitious vision that assures an NSCC education will lead to a consistently excellent and equitable life outcome for students, which will in turn improve community outcomes. Spread the word and bring a friend or two.



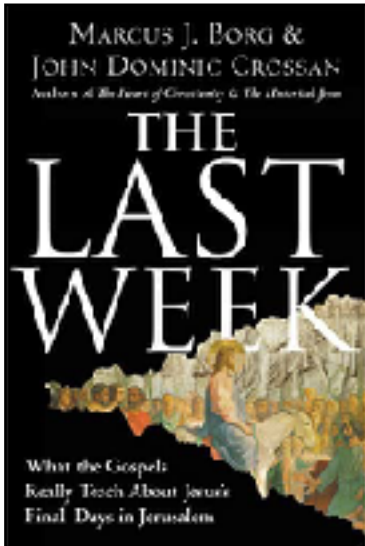
Do you have a stash of NVC's Annual Reports? We are in search of a 2012 Annual Report. It may be labeled Annual Report for 2013 on the cover but note that it's

for fiscal year 2012 on the inside.

If you have one, we'd love to borrow it and will make sure it's returned to your collection.

Please contact Chris in the church office at 781-581-1202 or secretary@nahantvillagechurch.org.

THERE'S STILL TIME FOR THE LENTEN BOOK STUDY



Rev. Scott will lead a one-hour book study, Wednesday nights, during Lent from March 1 to April 5, at 7 p.m.

And for those who would like to share a meal beforehand, there will be a Lenten soup supper hosted by volunteers starting at 6:30 p.m.

The book up for discussion is "The Last Week: A Day-by-Day Account of Jesus's Final

Week in Jerusalem," by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan.

The soup supper and book study are both open to the public and suitable for older teens and adults. The book may be purchased (new or used) online. Sign up in the Companion Way, call the office at 781-581-1202 and speak to Chris, or call, text or email Jen McCarthy at 781-316-7309 or edwarthy@hotmail.com to register or fill out the Sign Up Genius at https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f054fadaf28aafc1-lenten#.



REFLECTIONS

On Rev. Scott's first Sunday in the pulpit Alik Tolchinsky gifted the church with these two beautiful prints, "Reflections," which he created. Alik, a writer from Lynn, and his wife have made the Nahant Village Church their home of late. Please take a minute to thank and welcome them.

FEBRUARY BREAKFAST SPEAKER

Jim Walsh with an assist from Mike Rauworth and Town Administrator Tony Barletta spoke about affordable housing in Nahant during the Nahant Community Breakfast.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 3 - Chris Stevens
- 4 - Carol Crawford
- 17- Marrit Hastings
- 26 - Lynne Spencer



NVC IN ACTION



GOD BLESS & GODSPEED

We said thank you & goodbye to Preacher Rusty with Roz's Whoopi pies and a print of our beautiful church. A week later we said goodbye and thank you to Patricia with a pair of bronze hands created by artist Isabell Van Merlin. and a luncheon.



WELCOME! AT LAST

Then we finally got to welcome our new settled pastor & his wife, Rev. Scott & Nancy Marie Elliott!

Rev. Scott was Jen McCarthy presented Scott with a stole representing Black History Month, given to him by Rev. Patricia Long. After worship the pair were welcomed with a beautiful cake by cake decorator extraordinaire Roz Puleo.



PASTA DINNER SUCCESS

The Deacons, Rich Stevens (above left), Jen McCarthy & Chris Stevens managed to pull off another successful Community Dinner on Feb. 17. We were joined by about 27 of our friends including Nancy Cantelmo, Marsha White and Marianna Hire (center) and Bunny Thompson and Bill Crawford (right). Thanks to all who participated



OUR BELLS KEEP TOLLING

Monthly on the 11th day at 11 am the Nahant Village Church bells toll eleven times to raise awareness of the environmental crisis.

SCHEDULING ACTIVITIES AT NVC

It is great to see more activity at our church, and we anticipate that this will increase in the coming months. In order to avoid scheduling conflicts, please let Christine Stevens know about your plans so that she can enter it on the master schedule. Meetings that are held at the church should be included on the schedule.

Any new initiatives or events to be held at the church need to be brought before the Leadership Team as well as Trustees for their review and approval. This is to ensure that the planned event is in keeping with the church's overall mission.

If for some reason a planned activity is cancelled, it is the responsibility of the leader/chair of that group or meeting to inform its participants accordingly.

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, so you can watch the service later when you have time. 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>

BIBLE STUDIES

Join on Zoom Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m

A link is available on the NVC Home page at

<https://www.nahantvillagechurch.org>

Meeting ID: 838 6095 4980

Passcode: 01908

LITURGY READERS WANTED



Have you ever wanted to read liturgy during the Sunday Worship Service? If so, please email Jen McCarthy at

edwarthy@hotmail.com. We'd love to have you!



VOLUNTEERS FOR COFFEE HOUR

Coffee hour following Worship has resumed in Swansburg Hall. If you would like to volunteer to oversee the Coffee Hour, which takes about 30 to 45 minutes. Coffee is made and food is provided.

Volunteers will just do a light clean up and clean out the coffee pot. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Jen McCarthy.



GENESIS SUPPER CLUB

The Genesis Supper Club is back after a hiatus and meeting in person, Friday nights from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in Swansburg Hall. Everyone is welcome to join for a potluck, gluten free vegan meal (and don't let the word "vegan" scare you). Meeting information is available on the Nahant Village Church Webpage at nahantvillagechurch.org. or contact Samantha at 978-530-7633 with questions.



NAHANT VILLAGE CHURCH

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

Church Council

Jen McCarthy - edwarthy@hotmail.com
or 781-316-7309)
also Board of Deacons Chair

Nancy Cantelmo - nlc31@comcast.net
or 781-599-3977 or 617-794-6477)
Memorials/Music Committee Chair

Bill Crawford - crawfordwm@verizon.net
or 781-581-0411)
Board of Trustee Chair

Maria Welsh - (mariawelsh@ymail.com)
or 781-856-5753)

Treasurer

Marrit Hastings - (calhast@hotmail.com)
or 781-581-5691)

Buildings and Grounds

Cal Hastings - calhast@hotmail.com
or 781-581-5691)

Amy Dow - ikors92@yahoo.com
617-378-8520

Andy Puleo - andynahant@aol.com
or 617-293-3913)

Compassionate Care Circle

Marsha White - marshawhite@comcast.net

You are invited

**Sunday Worship Service
in the Sanctuary
Sundays @10:30 am**

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.

Bible Study

Tuesdays @ 10:00 a.m. via Zoom

Meeting ID: 838 6095 4980

Passcode: 01908

Caregiver “Connections”

Third Tuesday of the month

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

NVC - Swansburg Hall

Genesis Supper Club

Fridays @ 5:00-6:30 p.m.

Village Ringers

Mondays @ 5:15 p.m.

Swansburg Hall

NahantVV

Meeting ID: 810 8610 6763

Passcode: NVV

Passcode: 697582 (phone)

We would *Love* for you join us!